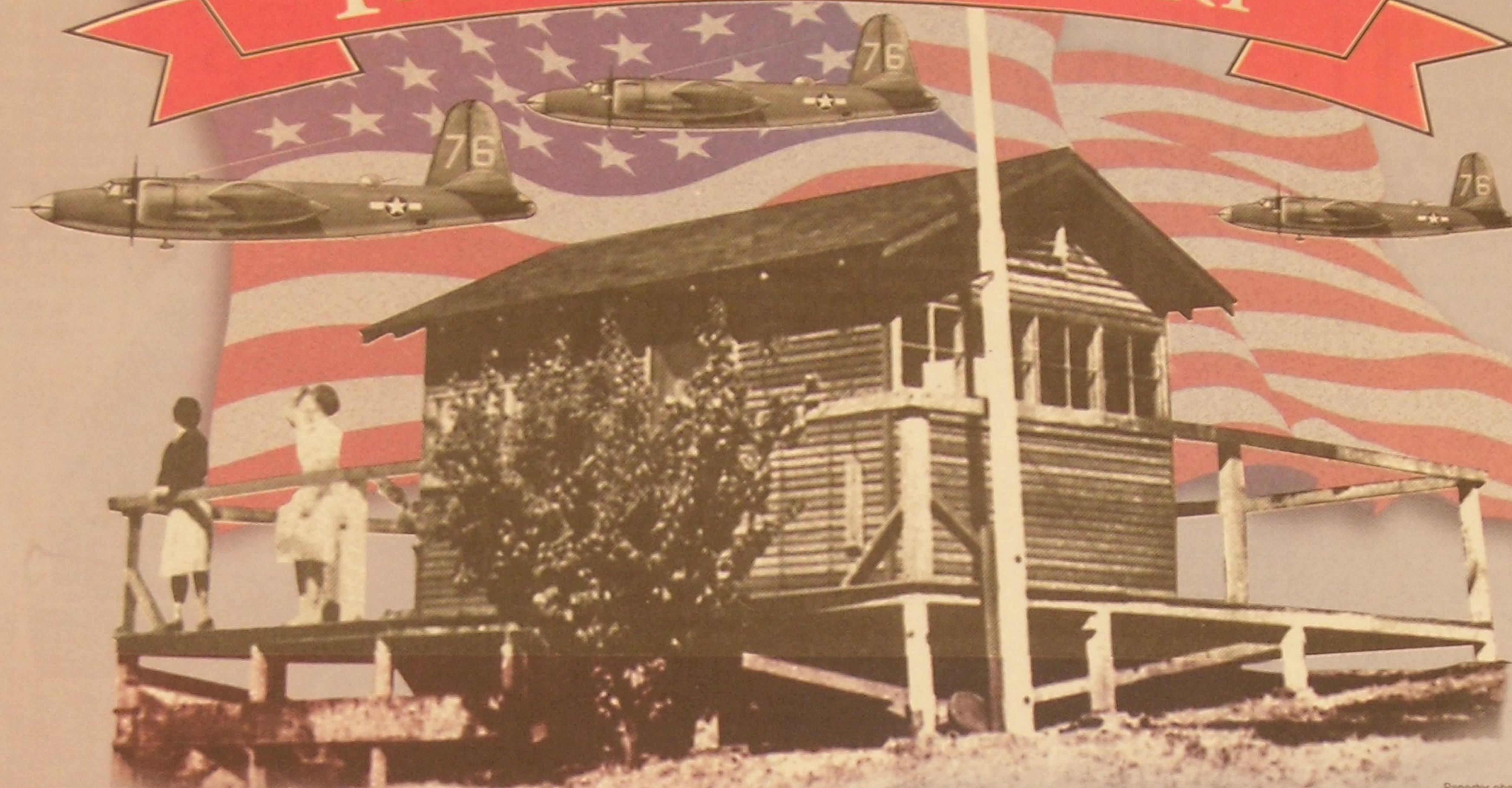


1940-1949 VACAVILLE

THE PAST CENTURY



Reporter photo illustration

Fighting a world war at home

By Richard Rico / Editor & Publisher

Pearl Harbor, Iwo Jima, Guadalcanal. Anzio, Normandy, the White Cliffs of Dover. Faraway places with strange sounding names. How quickly they became a part of our vocabulary, how focused we were on the shifting ownership of real estate. They were the beaches, the battlefields, the "theaters" of war.

They were somewhere west of Mount Vaca and east of the Sierra, but from the wooden deck of Vacaville's air observation post on a Vine Street hill, the blue ridgeline of the Vaca

Mountains was as far as a volunteer airplane spotter could see.

In the Vacavilles of America, the early '40s was all war, all the time. From pitching in to help fight it to recovering from it after 1945, Vacaville was full of it, consumed by it, committed to its end. The little community gave all that it could give: Its sons and daughters, husbands and wives.

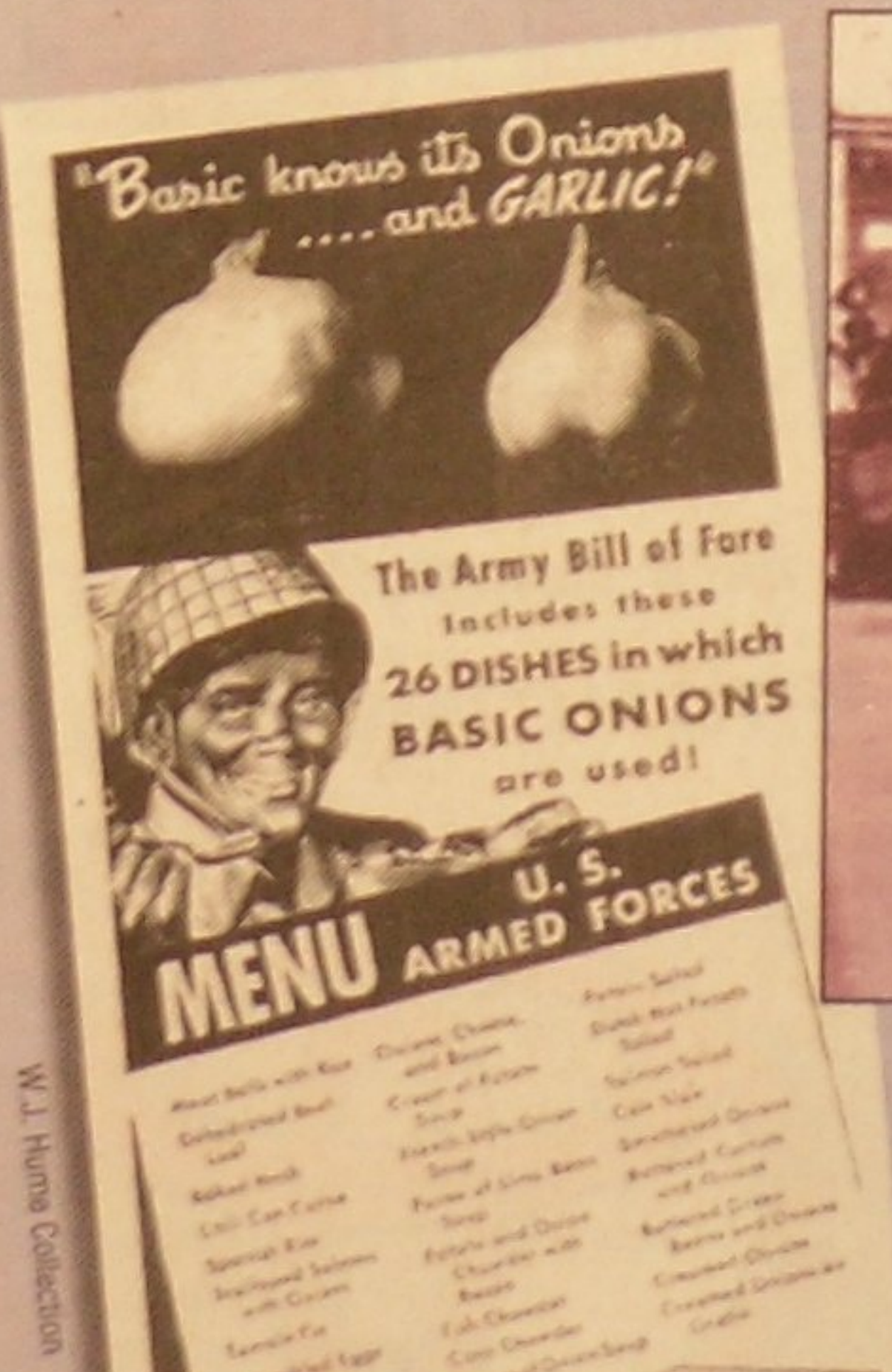
World War II was both a world away, and as close as the town's front porches. It shone as little silken stars — each representing a loved one in uniform — hanging in windows along quiet (See Fighting, Page 6)

Men and women stood watch 24-hours a day during the early part of World War II at the air observation post on Buckley Ranch in Vacaville (above), scanning the sky for enemy aircraft.

2nd Lt. Michael L. Libonati Jr. (below) of Vacaville became a symbol to city residents of the ultimate price paid in war. The bombardier was the first local man killed in World War II.



Reporter file photo



Vacaville Heritage Council

There was work to be done at home. Locals pitch in during a scrap drive (above). Collected metal, rubber, plastic and other materials were converted into weapons and other materials. Basic Vegetable Products Co., a major local employer during the war and after, touted in an ad (left) the use of its products for GIs.

A world at war

Again young Vacaville men went away to fight in a war on foreign ground. And again they paid the price of freedom with blood.

Those who were left behind did what they could. Whether it was collecting junk to be converted into weapons and other equipment, scanning the sky for enemy aircraft or women doing jobs meant for men,

Vacans answered the call.

The Reporter's latest chapter in a 10-month project, "Vacaville: The Past Century," chronicles life here during World War II and the rest of the '40s. In late December, this retrospective on Vacaville's place in the 20th century will be combined in a collector's edition, bound in Leatherette, and available for purchase.

Here and abroad

Vacans fought World War II, here and abroad. / Pages 3 & 4

Business booms

Enterprises prosper during World War II and after. / Page 5

Internment

Local Japanese Americans are taken to camps. / Page 11



Housing growth

Airfield and war industries fuel housing boom here. / Page 17

LITHIA TOYOTA OF VACAVILLE

1941

The first General Purpose
(*sport utility*) vehicle is introduced.



The '99 Toyota 4Runner still has the rugged off road capabilities that original sport utility enthusiasts were looking for. They probably wouldn't have minded the front bucket seats and dual cup holders either.

The Toyota 4Runner combines the best of both worlds with rugged and luxurious features working hand in hand to create an enjoyable sport utility vehicle

- Overhead console with garage door opener/
sunglasses holder and map lights

- 4-way adjustable fabric front bucket seats
- Deluxe AM/FM ETR/Cassette with 4 speakers

- Two front and one rear 12-volt
auxiliary power outlets



Not 100% satisfied with your purchase? Return your used vehicle for any reason in the same condition within 10 days or 500 miles and exchange it for another Lithia vehicle of equal value.



Every Lithia used vehicle is thoroughly inspected before we warranty it for up to 60 days or 3,000 miles.



Complete a simple form and in ten short minutes you'll get a simple credit analysis to determine which of our many credit sources can best suit your needs.

Priority You

See dealer for details.



Thinking about selling your car but don't know its value? In 30 minutes or less, we'll appraise your car for its current market value. Then if you like, we'll buy it from you, on the spot.



Walk into a Lithia showroom, select your vehicle and we'll make every effort to complete the paperwork in 90 minutes.



For every retail vehicle sold, Lithia will make a donation to local charities or educational institutions to help make our community even better.

MISSION

The Mission of Lithia Automotive Group is to be the best provider of cars, light trucks and related services in the Western United States.

VALUES

People — Our people are the source for our strength. They provide our corporate intelligence and determine our reputation and vitality.

Products — Our products are the end result of our efforts, and they should be the best in serving our customers. As our products are viewed, so are we viewed.

Profits — Profits are the ultimate measure of how efficiently we provide our customers with the best products for their needs. Profits are required to survive and grow.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Quality comes First — To achieve customer satisfaction, the quality of our products and services must be our number one priority.

Customers are the focus of everything we do — Our work must be done with our customers in mind, providing better products and services than our competition.



35 dealerships across the western United States

35 Store Buying Power! • Saving You Money Since 1946

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TOYOTA | everyday

1940-1949

THE PAST CENTURY

THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

A victory on the Japanese island of Iwo Jima was celebrated in Vacaville with a parade (right) in March 1945. But World War II also meant blackouts and bad news, as reported in The Reporter on word 2nd Lt. Michael Libonati Jr. was missing. He was later confirmed as killed in action.



Vacaville Heritage Council

Alarm sounded for local defense

By Julie Davidow
Staff Writer

World War II touched down in Vacaville three days after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor.

The town joined the rest of the Pacific Coast to prepare for the worst: an air strike against the mainland.

Defense plans were laid out at an emergency City Council meeting on Dec. 10, the same day residents underwent their first blackout drill.

Located within 50 miles of San Francisco — a designated target area — Vacaville was subject to the army's blackout regulations.

The local defense council was charged with enforcing blackout procedures — a formidable task given the lax attitude of some residents toward national security.

"One light left burning ... may endanger the lives of persons living throughout the whole area as well as our city," urged The Reporter's Dec. 12 edition.

Chief Air Warden Bernard J. Day and his 20 assistants patrolled the community's 10 defense districts.

Blackouts soon took their place alongside other everyday activities, interrupting basketball games and forcing doctors at Vacaville General Hospital to use flashlights when delivering a baby at 7 p.m. on Jan. 9, 1942.

After months passed with no palpable show of aggression by Japanese war planes, interest in defense plans waned further.

Difficulty in keeping the town's two listening posts manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week prompted one irate resident to write a letter to the editor: "Do the people of Vacaville have to be bombed before they wake up to the importance of the listening posts? It certainly (See Defense, Page 8)

Vacaville boys go to another war

By Sally Miller Wyatt
Special to The Reporter

"Vacaville Prepares for Possible Bombing Attack," screamed the headline on the Dec. 12, 1941, edition of The Reporter.

In the days immediately following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, city fathers scrambled to prepare citizens for the worst. The City Council made defense plans during an emergency meeting, and citizens already had endured their first blackout test. The blackout signal — one long fire siren blast, followed by three short blasts — was outlined in a front page story: "Air Raid Rules: What to Do."

Meanwhile, several families were waiting to learn the fate of their loved ones on the Hawaiian Islands. Information in those early days was excruciatingly slow to trickle in.

"Safe," reportedly was the only message on a cablegram from Honolulu a few days after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. It was delivered to Mr. and Mrs. L.W. Roulund of Vacaville from their son Dean, a teacher in Hawaii.

On Dec. 19, 1941, The Reporter noted Mr. and Mrs. Nick Dito had waited "six long days" to learn their son, Rudy, was safe on Midway Island, as was Earl Armstrong of Dixon. Robert Costello, serving aboard a mine sweeper in the Pacific, also was OK, and his parents "were overjoyed at the good news."

Shortly after Christmas, local aircraft

Blackout Signal

One long Fire Siren Blast at a steady pitch, followed by 3 short oscillating blasts.

FOR ALL CLEAR—One continuous Siren Blast at a steady pitch of two minutes duration.

observers were asked to meet an hour before their shift was to begin at the McCune Funeral Home; by mid-January, more than 500 air raid spotters were on duty in Solano County, each working in four-hour shifts.

The first "blackout baby" also was born; Mrs. Mannie Thompson gave birth to a boy during a lights-out at the hospital on Elizabeth Street. It wasn't until late January 1942 that the first real air raid alert was sounded because of "unidentified aircraft off the coast."

While citizens were dealing with blackouts and the first rounds of sugar, tire and coffee rationing, local boys were registering for the draft, which had been expanded to include all men ages 20 to 44. "Ten million men are now eligible for the draft," the Reporter stated Jan. 9, 1942.

Among the first Vacaville residents to join (See Price of Freedom, Page 8)

Vacaville Boy Missing In European Area



SECOND LIEUTENANT MICHAEL LIBONATI, JR.
Sale of Hunt Bros. Cannery Rumored
Masonic Lodges Install

The disappearance of World War II hero Michael Libonati Jr. was the subject of the following telegram from the War Department at Washington: "The secretary of war desires that you express his deep regret that your son Second Lieutenant Michael L. Libonati, Junior, Air Corps, has been missing in action in western European area since January 14. Additional information will be sent you when received."

The Adjutant General's first roundup to one of its many boys was now in the armed services.

Second Lieutenant Michael Libonati received his commission as a second lieutenant and was assigned from the Air Corps Advanced Flying School at Tuslingham, England. He has been stationed in England for several months, and only a few days ago word from him stated that he had been seeing plenty of action.

Although the War Department is waiting for further information as to the fate of the young man and other members of the bomber crew sent down in the International Red Cross or the German government. There is every possibility that the plane crew may have been taken prisoners.

Young Libonati is the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Libonati of Vacaville. He has one sister, Cheryl, who is a graduate of the local high school and is currently attending at Ellington Field, Texas, at the preliminary training center at Onizawa, California, and graduated from the Flying School.

War brings with it changes here

With men away, women's role changes forever

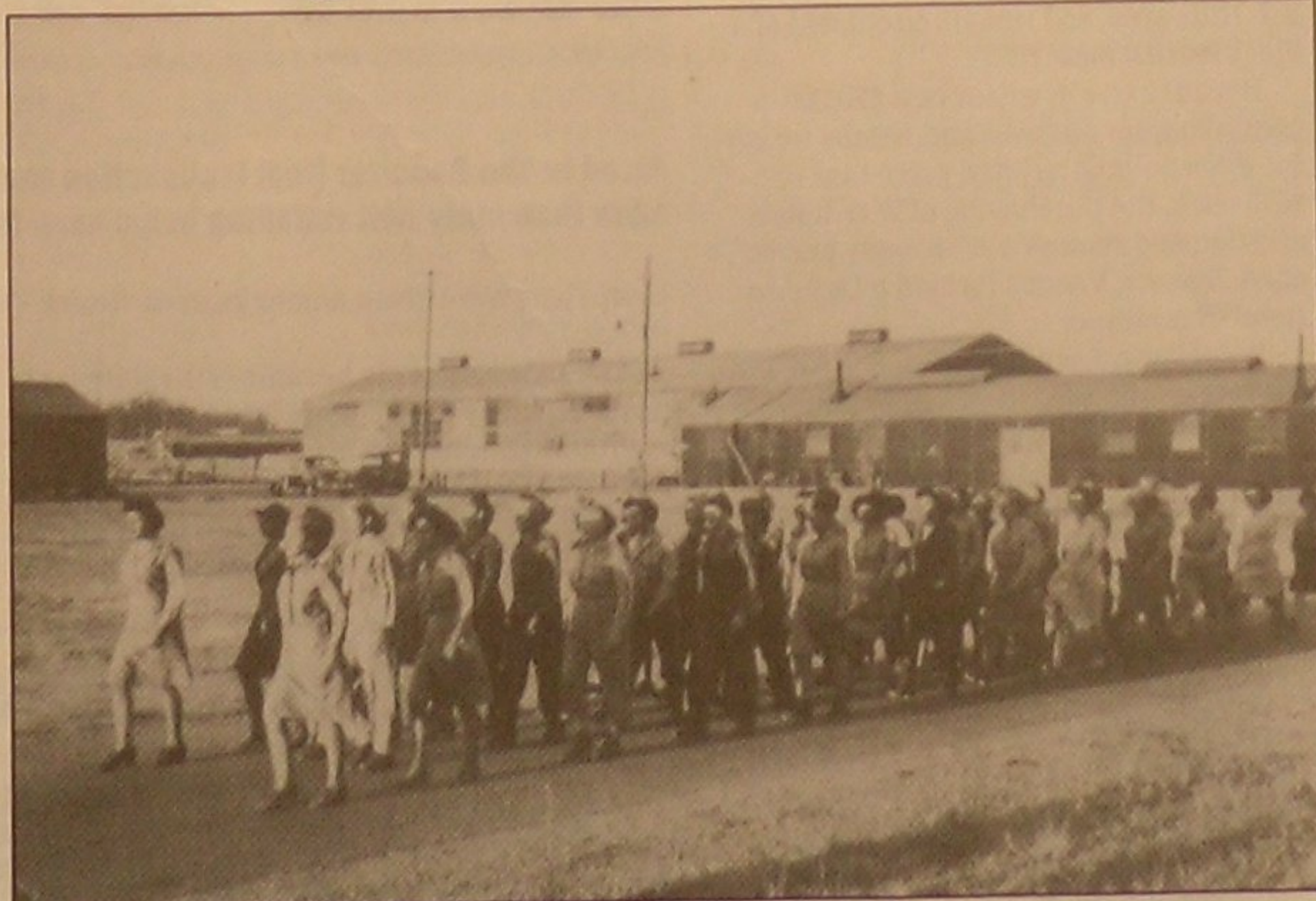
By Mike Adamick/Staff Writer

The growing specter of war that permeated Vacaville's culture in the 1940s gave way to an industry and housing boom when soldiers came marching home from World War II.

In between the food and gasoline rationing, the steady cry for war bonds, and the pleas for Red Cross donations, Vacaville residents continually grappled with the age-old problems of vice, juvenile delinquency and the burgeoning duality of women as workers and housewives.

Vacaville voted for Franklin Delano Roosevelt, formed an anti-Japanese league, and dealt with many of the same issues that continue to concern Vacaville today: transportation, growth, water and agriculture.

Advertisements in the pages of The Reporter in the early 1940s resolutely depicted a woman's role as housewife, whose goal in life was perfecting domesticity.



Women's Army Corps recruits arrived in 1943 at what will become Travis Air Force Base.

That changed somewhat when sons, brothers and fathers fought Germany and Japan in World War II. The role of housewife remained, but women also were being recruited for war work in the arsenals in San Francisco and for food dehydration at Basic Vegetable Products Co. Women had two roles — support the war effort through

work, and get the house ready for hubby's return.

A front-page article on Nov. 20, 1942, suggested that local women should tidy their houses, open them up to boarders and use the profits to buy war bonds. A Nov. 13, 1942, picture showed Dixon women mingling with (See Changes, Page 6)

WOMEN! They can't do any more —but you can



Join the **WAC**
WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS

APPLY AT NEAREST U.S. ARMY RECRUITING STATION

An ad in The Reporter urges women to join the Women's Army Corps by applying at the nearest Army Recruiting Station.

Vacaville: A Glance BACK

1940

■ Edwin Markham, renowned poet who spent his early years in Vacaville, dies in New York state. He wrote "The Man with the Hoe" (1898), said to be the most profitable poem written to that time.



1941

■ Japanese Buddhist Temple in Vacaville was shot at following the announcement of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

1942

■ Vacaville's Japanese sent to an internment camp near Rivers, Ariz.

■ Frank H. Buck, prominent grower and multimember congressman for the area, dies.

1943

■ Frank B. McKevitt Jr., major fruit grower, dies.

■ 2nd Lt. Michael Libonati Jr., a member of a Flying Fortress crew, becomes first Vacan to die in World War II. He was killed in action over France.

1944

■ F.A. Steiger dies. The Vacaville native was city engineer for several Solano County towns, as well as the county's surveyor.

■ Eugene Hamilton Padan, longtime principal of Vaca Valley Union Grammar School, dies.

■ Penicillin is made available in Vacaville.

Mayor Uhl christens tank sponsored by Vacaville

Last Sunday the writer accompanied Mayor Weyand of Dixon to Camp Beale near Marysville.

Major General Wogan had sent out invitations to mayors and chairmen of boards of supervisors to be present to sponsor tanks named for counties and cities of California. The 58 counties and 285 cities were represented, all the way from Imperial valley and as far north as the Oregon line.

Luncheon was served at the officers' mess hall at 10:30 a.m., after which all proceeded to the reviewing grounds. The program began with an invocation by the chaplain, followed by the flag raising and playing of the national anthem. This was followed by an address by General Wogan and by Governor Earl Warren. At the conclusion of the governor's address the mayors and supervisors were requested to go out on the grounds where the tanks were assembled and sponsor their tank. The tanks were arranged in a semi-circle and the tank named Vacaville was in the sixth row. The larger tanks had a personnel of five men, the smaller ones four. I secured the names of the men

who manned the Vacaville tank and they follow:

Colonel John J. Albright from Ohio, Staff Sergeant H.P. Epperly from West Virginia, T/S T.M. Conkey from Ohio and Private Garrett Clements from Virginia.

After giving the tank our best wishes we returned to the stand and the tanks moved out in review. Later on after wetting the grounds thoroughly every vehicle known to modern warfare passed in review, and it required about two hours time in rows of about 15 for the entire equipment to pass.

This is a mechanized camp and has a personnel of about 30,000 men. General Wogan stated that the firing power of this one camp exceeded that of both armies in the battle of Gettysburg where more than 200,000 men were engaged. The cost of all this equipment must be enormous, as I was told that the price of one tank is \$15,000. Modern warfare being a mechanized affair it would seem that the Axis powers played in our hands as no other country is as industrialized as ours.

— By Mayor C.J. Uhl
The Reporter
July 9, 1943

Vaca man weds French girl

Felix Rodriguez of Vacaville and Georgette Eve Wilot of Paris, France, were united in marriage before Justice of the Peace Georgia H. Crowley of Fairfield on St. Valentine's Day, culminating a romance which necessitated the aid of a California congressman and a Berkeley city official to bring it to its happy climax.

The bridegroom, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzo Rodriguez, met her at a Brussels, Belgium, Red Cross canteen in late 1945. He was then a technical sergeant attached to the adjutant general's headquarters in that city. They became engaged and he sailed for home on March 6, 1946.

Immediately upon reaching the United States, he posted the immigration bond and paid for her passage by air. Delay followed delay and last fall he entered Armstrong College in Berkeley to complete a course in business administration, which he had started in a British university. While in Berkeley he met Representative George P. Miller of Alameda, who became interested in bringing Miss Wilot over from her

native Belgium.

The wedding was planned for Thanksgiving but she did not get away. They planned a Christmas wedding next but the TWA pilots strike prevented it.

In early January he received a cablegram stating she was leaving Paris on the City of Cairo. About the time that plane crashed near Dublin, killing several, he received another cablegram stating there had been a mistake in her reservation and she had not been permitted to board the ill fated plane.

On Feb. 9 she did leave Paris. She landed in Burbank on February 11th and flew to Sacramento the same day.

Miss Wilot graduated from a Brussels college with a teacher's credential shortly after the war started. She did not teach but worked in the canteen where Rodriguez met her.

Rodriguez took part in the invasion of Normandy and fought across France. He was in Deauville when the war ended.

Following a short honeymoon they returned to Vacaville to reside.

The Reporter
Feb. 21, 1947

Game called due to blackout

'Blackout' won an easy victory last Friday night on the Winters Warriors' home court while they were entertaining the local Vaca High Bulldogs in a scheduled cage encounter.

Just as the boys were leaving the court at half time, the lights were ordered out and after an interval it was decided to call the game and play it at a later date.

At the close of the half, Vaca was leading by a 17-8 score but the brand of basketball they had been playing to this point was not outstanding nor consistent enough to insure a final victory, despite the lead enjoyed. Passing, shooting and defensive play were all ragged the fast break proving the only consistent scoring weapon.

The Reporter
Dec. 19, 1941

'Jolt them with Junk'

POINTERS ON POINT RATIONING



Vacans pitch in for war effort

By Barbara Smith
Special to the Reporter

In 1942, an old radiator provided enough scrap steel for 17 much-needed .30-caliber rifles. A shovel would make four hand grenades, and an old, treadbare tire — 12 gas masks.

Vacaville residents were asked to bring all of those items and anything made of rubber, aluminum, iron, copper, zinc or bronze to a "junk rally" with the spirited slogan, "Let's Jolt them with Junk from Vacaville."

During the war years, there was plenty for those left at home to do to support their troops — and plenty to do without. From pounding the streets selling war bonds to eating meatless meals, Vacaville rose to the challenge in the now-renowned spirit of the World War II generation.

Mayor Rudy Werner headed up an aluminum-collection drive that included a contest for children. Young Randolph Klotz won the first place prize of four tickets to the Vacaville Theatre, for collecting more than 127 pounds of aluminum.

Boy Scouts combed neighborhoods collecting paper. A "Man-Power" committee ventured into the rural area, considered rich in scrap metals, to pillage barns and ranch properties for junk. A tin-can drive was established, and even fat was salvaged. Tempting incentives were thrown in: One scrap rubber tire would admit two to the movies.

Rationing began with sugar. Eventually, coffee, meat, canned vegetables and even shoes were rationed. Housewives learned to master a complicated point system while grocery shopping. A rationing office, headed by Henrietta McLaughlin, was set up in the theater building. Tires were rationed and gasoline soon followed.

Some Vacaville residents preferred not to ration. During April 1943, gasoline thefts increased. Thieves, using a flexible hose, siphoned 15 gallons of gas from trucks belonging to Vic Corbella one night. There were reports of cattle rustling in the English Hills area, and rumors circulated of a black market meat ring.

Because one howitzer cost \$23,000, a heavy bomber \$250,000 and bombs weighing 4,000 pounds sported price tags of \$875 each, the purchasing of War Bonds and defense stamps was strongly encouraged. Several Vacans formed a Defense Bond Committee.

R.A. Cayot, John Rico, Ted Schaaf and Rudy Werner, local business leaders, organized aggressive, door-to-door sales campaigns. They were known as the "Pledge Victory Minute Men." Later committees were called "Blockbusters," and



Rationing! Will Insure Equal Food For All

Spend your points wisely. How? See the big assortment of merchandise on our shelves priced to save you money!

--and we have hundreds of non-rationed articles

SOLANO COUNTY GROCERY

TAX COLLECTED ON ALL TAXABLE ITEMS

PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

An ad in The Reporter (top) lauds ration shopping as easy, while another (above) more than hints that rationing helps keep the country strong.

campaigns were given names such as "Road to Tokyo."

The labor shortage became critical for farmers, who went begging for help to harvest their peaches, prunes and tomatoes. An Agricultural Extension Service was set up, and Mrs. Esther Eldredge worked to obtain farm help, reaching right into the heart of

the community.

Grocery stores closed early and on Sundays to relieve their employees to work on the ranches. The schools closed early, permitting students to pitch in. If people weren't busy selling War Bonds, looking for tin cans, or hauling junk, they were lending a hand in the orchards and fields.

Find All Your Flower Needs At



Florist & Gift Shop
Family owned since 1955

As business continued to flourish Rose and John Lopez joined FTD and Teleflora wire services that enabled them to send and receive flower orders from all over the nation. Along with fresh flowers and plants they also carried a high quality line of gift items such as baskets, lead crystal vases and ceramic containers, enabling them to customize that "special order".

218 Main Street • 448-4222



Rose & John Lopez



Since most able bodied men either enlisted or were drafted, women began to take jobs formerly held by men. Working women also had increased finances, allowing them to purchase items previously beyond their means. Like having their hair done professionally.

G. Norman Hair
358 Merchant St. • Downtown Vacaville
449-3837



Camille Beckman
• Banners, Windssocks & Accessories
• Margaret Furlong Collectibles
• Mary Engelbreit Garden Decorations

When the Tin Man needs a gift from the heart, he follows the road to...

Yellow Brick Road
313 Parker Street
Vacaville • 448-8278

1945

■ Rolla C. Gray, businessman and for 10 years during the '20s mayor of Vacaville, dies.

1946

■ Vacaville undergoes a post-war building boom. James Caughy Jr. leads the way with a 39-home development on the western outskirts of town.

1947

■ Vacans pass a bond measure for construction of Elm School.
■ California Department of Corrections recommends Vacaville as a site for a new prison medical institution. The project is delayed until California Medical Facility opens in the mid-1950s.

1948

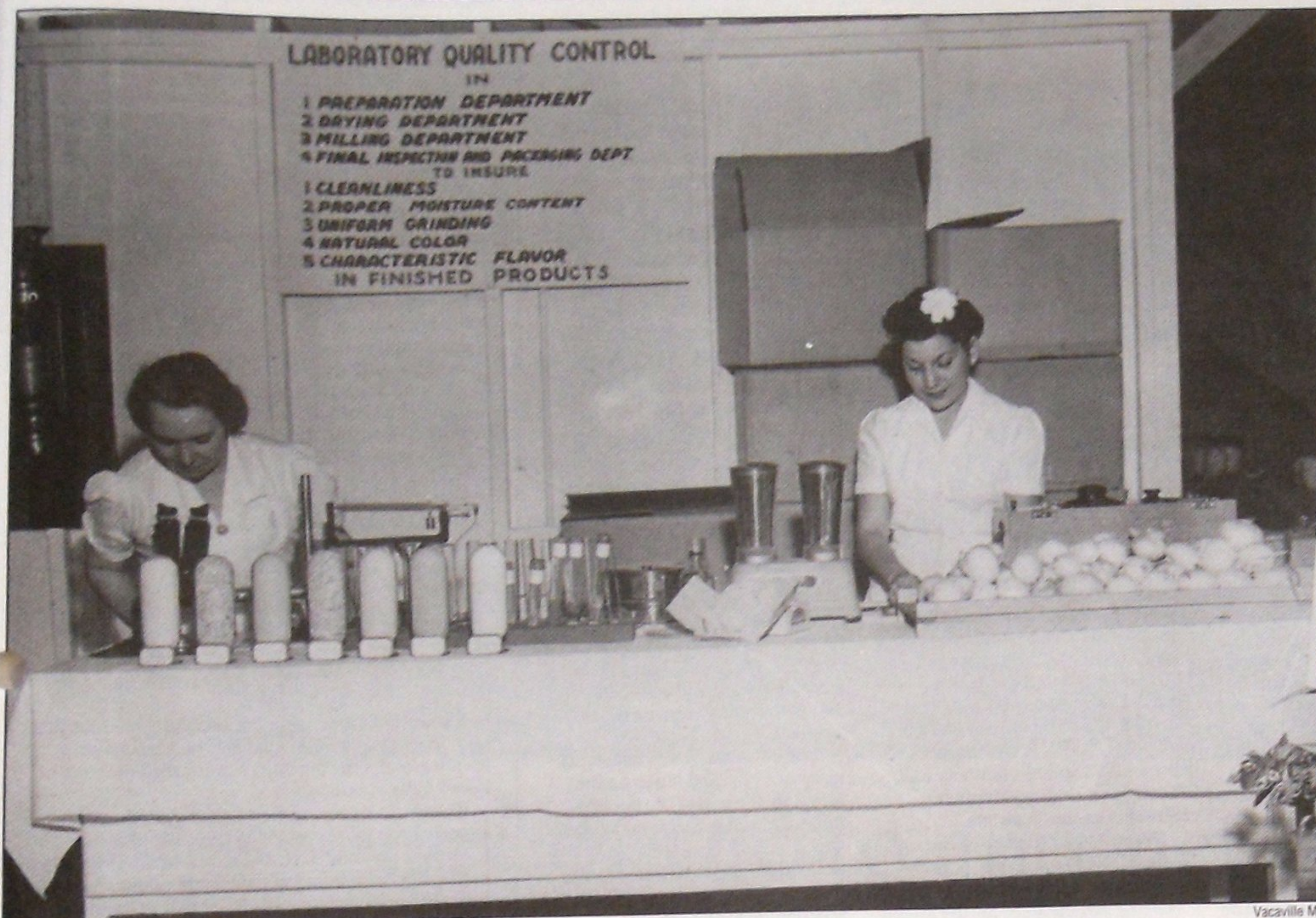
■ Solano Irrigation District is formed and becomes the legal authority for governing the Monticello Dam project once it is completed in 1957.
■ Vacaville's first TV set is installed in Brook's Place.
■ Vacaville gets house-to-house mail delivery carried by three local postmen.

1949

■ Parking meters come to Vacaville.



■ Elm School opens, and the old grammar school, built in 1908, is torn down.



**WANT A GOOD PAYING JOB
...RIGHT NEAR HOME?**

**IN THE WORLD'S
LARGEST
DEHYDRATION
PLANT**

SAFE
CLEAN
QUIET!

CAFETERIA OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY...
Excellent meals for every shift at prices you can work afford.

CHILD CARE CENTER... No need to worry about the children. Special care will be given those little ones while you work.

BUSES MEET EVERY SHIFT... Special buses make commutes with all shifts.

VITAL FOOD **HANDY** **SPECIAL BUSES**

BASIC

BASIC VEGETABLE PRODUCTS CO.
Vacaville, California
ONION - GARLIC HEADQUARTERS

W.J. Hume Collection

Two Basic Vegetable Products Co. workers (left) work to assure quality control. The company was a major employer in the 1940s, as an ad (above) suggests, and helped fuel the city's business boom during World War II and after.

Vacaville Museum

Business booms in '40s

Several industries fuel growth for Vacaville

By Cynthia Roberts
Special to The Reporter

The 1940s turbo-charged Vacaville's business life. Vacaville boomed again.

Vaca Valley Creamery was expanding its dairy processing and sales operation in 1940, adding on to the north side of its Main Street building.

Diamond Match Co. remodeled and doubled its lumber storage yard, while Lloyd Chandler moved his furniture store into the old JCPenney Co. building because he was expanding his inventory.

The city's 1,608 residents in 1940 would more than double by the end of the decade. They all needed food, clothing, furniture and services.

By 1942, the city had seven grocery stores, including a new Safeway built one year earlier.

Vacaville's big industrial star was the Basic Vegetable Products Co. Started in the middle of the Depression, Basic did nothing but grow every year.

But demand for its dried onions and garlic took on enormous proportions with the start of World War II. The U.S. government was a big customer in Solano County, buying the dehydrated vegetables, employing people and purchasing products

for its Fairfield-Suisun Army Air Base, Mare Island Navy Yard and Benicia Arsenal.

When the 1944 season started at Basic, the goal was to produce 12 million pounds of dried onions. Three shifts worked around the clock.

It was getting hard to find people to harvest fruit crops and cut apricots. They were all working at Basic.

The building business also boomed as demand for housing became nearly impossible to meet. There was plenty of commercial work to do as well.

Electric contractor Ernie Dietz took on the Safeway building and the Creamery expansion among his many jobs. In June 1941, he became a full-time electrician at Basic and brought in another person to run his electrical and refrigeration business.

As the war ended, the Fairfield-Suisun Army Air Base was expanding and Highway 40 became a busy thoroughfare as the state's population doubled by the end of the decade.

The Nut Tree was growing. "Since the end of the war, \$150,000 in improvements were made," noted The Reporter in its June 6, 1949, coverage of the restaurant's new \$85,000 kitchen. More than 2,000 people turned out to inspect the new facility.



Vacaville Heritage Council

Ford dealer Walter Hansel, discharged from the Navy after the war, came from his family's Stockton dealership in 1946 to open his own agency. He closed out the decade with an exclusive preview of the new 1950 Ford Custom Deluxe sedan. The fresh Hawaiian orchids he handed out to the ladies visiting the showroom was such a hit, Hansel decided to do it again the following Saturday. After all, it was good for business.

HELP WANTED

EXPERIENCE NOT NECESSARY

APPLY

Nut Tree Dining Room

VACAVILLE

The Nut Tree (above) continues to grow throughout the 1940s, meaning jobs (left) for area residents.

Basic earns 'E' awards for effort

Vacaville nearly burst with pride when the Army-Navy "E" was presented to Basic Vegetable Products Co. in March 1944.

The "E" award recognized exceptional performance on the production front in support of the U.S. armed forces.

Top Army and Navy brass turned out at the Basic plant where company officials were presented an "E" flag to fly under the Stars and Stripes. A group of employees was selected to receive the "E" pin which all workers later would be given.

Vacaville businesses closed for much of the afternoon on March 31, 1944, so everyone could attend the ceremony. The occasion warranted front-page photos in The Reporter that showed a sea of people turning out for the ceremony.

To add more excitement, the event was broadcast live over the McClatchy radio stations based in Sacramento.

But the effort by the plant was just beginning. The company would win two more E Awards before the end of the war. And by the end of the war, the firm was running around the clock with 1,000 employees processing 400,000 pounds of fresh onions daily.

Do You Remember???



- 1941 M&M Plain Chocolate Candies debut in six colors: red, green, yellow, orange, brown and violet. Eight years later, tan replaced violet.
- 1942-45 Food rationing: first sugar and coffee, then meat, butter, margarine, cheese and canned goods.
- 1943 A deep dish pizza - bubbly layers of cheese, sausage and tomatoes baked in a thick, high-sided crust - is created by Rick Riccardo and Ike Sewell and served at Pizzeria Uno in Chicago.
- 1946 Enter Tupperware.
- 1947 Reynolds Metals rolls out aluminum foil.
- 1947-48 Pillsbury and General Mills launch cake mixes.
- 1943 McDonald's installs drive-through service in its San Bernardino, Calif., hamburger stand and eliminates carhops.

MERCHANT & MAIN

349 MERCHANT ST. • DOWNTOWN VACAVILLE • 446-0368

Travelling back through time: 1940-1949



Joe Lopez

THE WAR YEARS - Joe's Barber Shop in the forties brought hard work and long days. Joe "the Barber" Lopez needed some help, so he sent his 16 yr. old son Joe, off to barber school in Sacramento in 1942, during his sophomore year at Vacaville High. Joe "Jr." helped out on weekends and after school, until he was 18 and entered the Navy in 1944. After his service years, Joe "Jr." worked off and on in his father's shop while going to college and helping out when his father needed it. Joe "the Barber" worked seven days a week at this time and the shop was home to several barbers during those years. Haircuts were \$1 and shaves \$.75. Soon, Joe Jr. was going to make a decision that was going to keep him in the shop for many years.



Barber Joe's

Vacaville's Oldest Family Hair Salon
Full service for men, women & children

444 Main St. • Downtown Vacaville • 707-448-6708

Fighting a war ...

(Continued from Cover)

streets. It piled as high as a mini-mountain when rubber tires were stacked and waited to be recycled for "the war effort."

The war effort. Virtually all of Vacaville life was guided by it and for it from Dec. 7, 1941, until the hard-earned peace four years later. Residents — some of whom never before had to go without — found themselves in rationing lines in hopes of having enough coupons to buy butter, sugar or shoes. Gasoline stickers on windshields were graphic symbols of who qualified for how much fuel per month, depending on use. Farms and businesses got more, residents got less. Those who could build ships at Mare Island, made their way to work through a thicket of inflated "barrage balloons" that hovered above Vallejo on cable tethers to discourage sudden aerial attacks on the shipyard. Closer to home, workers in white uniforms daily turned out at the Basic Vegetable and onion and garlic dehydrating plant, which won an Army-Navy "E Award" for contributing to the war effort by adding flavor to GI's rations.

Blackout wardens patrolled neighborhoods at night, knocking on doors to admonish residents who had left a light burning after the familiar air raid siren had wailed. It was likely another practice raid, but no one knew for sure. Radio by candlelight had no romantic overtones. The wardens likely saw double duty as volunteer aircraft spotters on the observation post built by Carroll Mundy's class of Future Farmers of America at Vacaville High School. Day and night, volunteers scanned the skies in search of any and all aircraft. Identifying them from silhouette charts, they called a military control center by phone to report their sightings.

If there was ever a feeling of distance from the war, Vacaville came face to face with it when local

Japanese — friends and neighbors — were loaded onto rail cars on the East Main Street siding for relocation to internment camps. The siding, originally built to connect with the Elmira Mainline so Vaca Valley fruit could be shipped east, now became an evacuation train to desolation, confusion and despair.

The town grieved collectively when word was received that local boy Michael L. Libonati Jr. was reported missing in action. The Reporter published his photograph on page one, a young man in white silk scarf and leather pilot helmet. He was Vacaville's first casualty of the war. Ironically, his cousin, Frank Rago, was the first hometown man killed in action during World War I. In all, 10 Vacaville men were killed in action during the war. Countless others saw action, were wounded or shot down. David McCready was a tailgunner aboard "Gremlin's Holiday," a B-25 when it was shot down during an air raid on the island of Cavite in the South Pacific. He and 14 others were rescued by a famed U.S. Navy Catalina flying boat, "Arkansas Traveler."

The windswept and dusty little military airfield just outside of Fairfield — Ragsdale Field — became an important facility as planes and personnel of war passed through for maintenance and transition. It was renamed Fairfield-Suisun Army Air Base and by 1945 became the West Coast's largest aerial port. It was renamed in 1950 to honor Brig. Gen. Robert F. Travis who was killed when his B-29 crashed at the end of the runway.

As it did to so many lives, the war forever changed Vacaville. The varied government housing com-



Consolidated B-24J Liberators (above) made up about half of the planes flying from the Fairfield-Suisun Army Air Base during World War II. Sgt. Eddie Lindsay (left), a member of the Women's Army Corps, relaxes on the base in front of women's temporary tar paper barracks.

Travis Air Force Base archive

pounds around town were taken over by the city. In the earliest of postwar years their transformation to residential and commercial sites was already on the drawing boards. A federal administration building at "Vaca Valley Acres" soon became Vacaville's new city hall. Today's city hall on Merchant Street is on the same site.

Vaca Valley Village on the east side of Merchant Street — Vacaville's first major residential subdivision — set the pace for the growth that was to come. Between 1940 and 1950, Vacaville's population tripled. Rationing ended, the community began picking up the pieces. A few relocated Japanese started to return home. Things would never

be the same, but the little town still clung to its fruit-producing roots: In 1949, two boxes of Elberta Peaches were delivered to Washington, D.C., and presented to President Harry Truman.

The community was becoming more of a city, and it was on the move. By the end of the decade talks of possibly damming up Putah Creek were getting serious. A dam at Devil's Gate, to be named after the little inundated community of Monticello, would provide life-giving water for a valley still relying heavily on its agriculture. It wouldn't be completed until the 1950s, not long after the new state prison, the California Medical Facility, was built.

Changes ...

(Continued from Page 3)

Bay Area women at the San Francisco Army Arsenal. The caption told of the hundreds of thousands of women at work in factories.

In Vacaville, day care was available for those who went to work at Basic, which supplied dehydrated foods for the war effort.

During the war, women were charged with running the Hospitality House, which provided solace and wholesome entertainment for servicemen.

After the war, ads and articles pleading with women to support the war effort disappeared. Instead of asking women to work in the apricot fields or at Basic, women were asked to work at soda fountains.

The war and the ensuing disruption of family and community ties led to increased problems with vices such as gambling and prostitution. In December 1941, the Vacaville Town Council outlawed gambling, and in November 1943, Solano County Supervisors outlawed prostitution, which had taken hold in Vacaville at the Riverside Hotel.

Juvenile delinquency had taken hold in Vacaville as well, and many ideas were proposed to solve the dilemma. The Parent Teacher Association met in October 1940 to talk about a new solution labeled "child psychology."

To help curb the influence Hollywood had on local violence, the local theater found it appropriate to label a February 1940 showing of John Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men" as not suitable for young eyes. A month later, the police chief called for a crackdown on "hoodlums."

Eventually, the Chamber of Commerce opted to create a teen center where youth in the area could convene. In November 1943, the Town Council created a curfew for minors from 10 p.m. to daylight.

Vacaville battled more than delinquency and vice. Continued fears of communism which would burst into flames during the Cold War invaded even the hallowed halls of religion.

There was a great uproar in Vacaville over a sermon given by local pastor Rev. A.F. Fruhling thought to contain communist rhetoric. A Sept. 27, 1940, article in The Reporter urged people to attend his church to hear the sermon, which Fruhling said he would repeat.

Despite concerns about treason in the pulpits, Vacaville did turn to its spiritual leaders for guidance in negotiating those difficult times. After the war, Vacaville was home to a 13-county Catholic conference in 1946 that urged residents to rebuild communities based on the word of God.

Regent at Summerfield House

Some of the most respected names in Vacaville call Summerfield House home.

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Shock's has an excellent relationship with the La-Z-Boy company and they with her. It's a company that cares about its retail dealers and the customers they cater to. They have taken special care to build a healthy business relationship with Shock's and go to incredible lengths to ensure their success in the community. Monthly visits from the La-Z-Boy representatives help Shock's staff stay current of the latest changes in styles and fabrics and should there be questions or problems, they will go directly to the customers home to satisfy any concerns.

Shock's has always built their business on great customer service combined with the finest quality furniture for the dollar. For that reason, they have aligned themselves with a company that cares about families. That means a lot to Stacey Powers. She respects her customers need to be comfortable in their down time with their family just as she does with her own.

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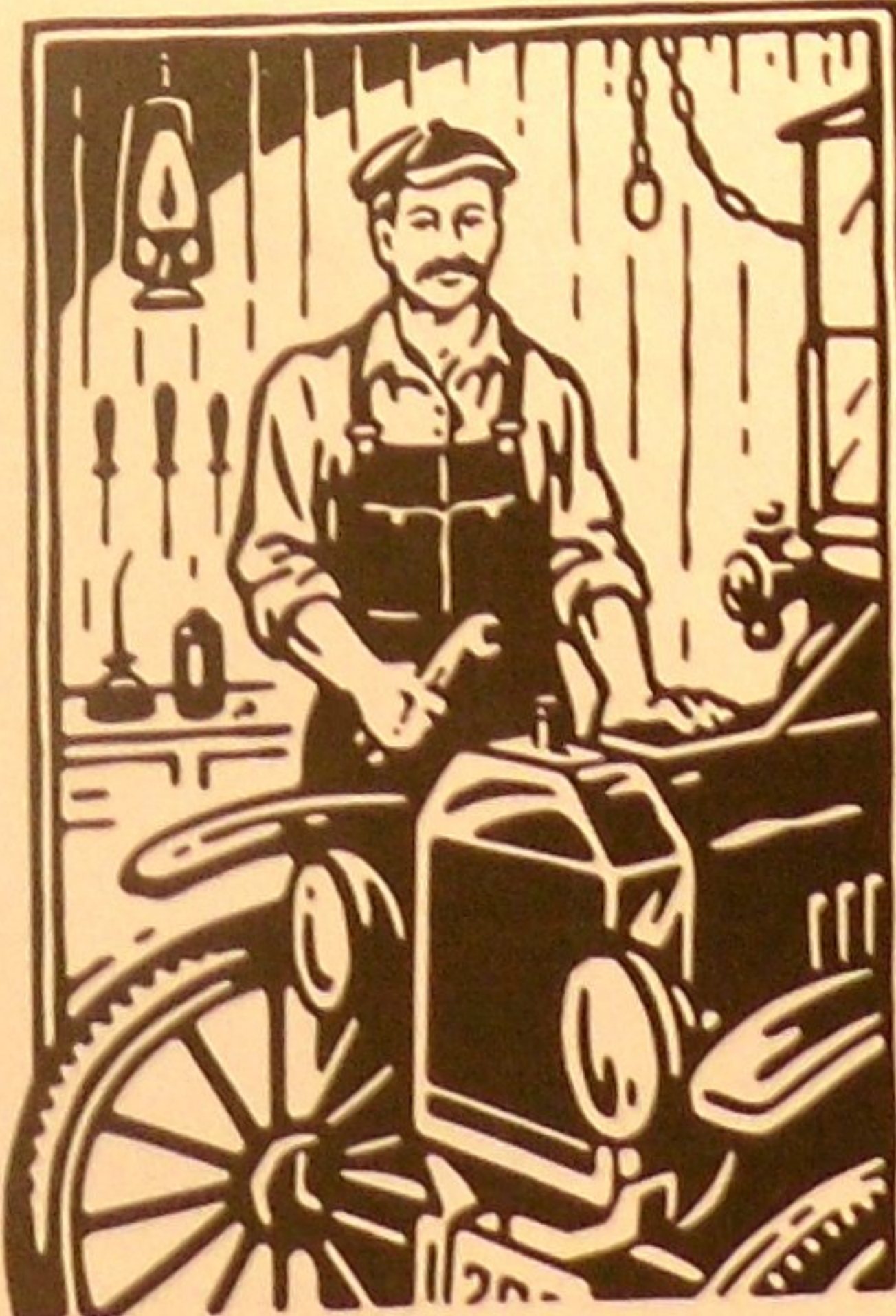
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Price of freedom ...

(Continued from Page 3)

the armed services after Pearl Harbor were Charles Aldrich, Jack Harada, Houston McMillan, Jack Page and Pat Kyle. Eventually, dozens of Vacaville men and women would serve with every branch of the military and in every theater of the war. Some families sent more than one member. Of the Baxter family, four sons and the father enlisted. Seven sons from the James T. Boyle family also served.

Vacaville learned it lost its first son in January 1943. The parents of 2nd Lt. Michael Libonati Jr. received a telegram stating their only son was missing in action. A few days later word was received he had been killed. In an unusual twist of fate, The Reporter noted, Libonati was a cousin of Vacaville's first casualty of World War I, Frank Rago.

In a cruel twist, as the Libonati family continued to mourn the loss of their son, they received a heart-wrenching telegram in March 1943 stating they had been misinformed. Their son, the V-mail letter said, was instead a prisoner of war.

For seven months they wondered and worried, until Mrs. Libonati received a letter from a fellow prisoner of war who confirmed Michael's death. A special mass was held for him in November 1943.

This was just the beginning of agonizing and bittersweet news for local families. Shortly after 2nd Lt. Michael Libonati Jr. was first reported killed, Vacaville residents learned that one of the Baxter boys, 27-year-old Gene, had died on Guadalcanal.

Staff Sgt. Robert Parrott was killed in a bomber crash in March 1943, while Herschel Jones was reported in April to be a prisoner of war in a Japanese camp.

In early August, Eddie Garcia, who had so recently been "handling groceries at the Solano Grocery, was now flying Fortresses over Europe in the 'Deuces Wild.'" In mid-August, word came home that Garcia had been awarded the prestigious Oak Leaf Cluster award at ceremonies in England.

By September, Garcia was reported missing in action, and one month later he was a confirmed prisoner of war in Germany. His mother was presented with his medals in November 1943.

Also missing in action were Jack E. Lester, Sgt. Eugene Roundtree and Lt. Buckingham; wounded were John Haro in Italy.

Sgt. David McCready, a tail gunner

aboard a B-25, was rescued after being shot down by Japanese bombers. A letter he wrote to his parents shortly afterwards tried to calm their fears: "I have second-degree burns on my arms and a compound fracture of my right ankle. I am getting along nicely so don't worry. I am through flying for a long time."

In October 1944, a Reporter article noted that local boy Sgt. Raymond Paolini had arrived home after "31 missions, lots of decorations and not a scratch!" In the same paper was a picture of three Vacaville residents who had enlisted in the Coast Guard together — Harry J. Price, Frank Pulido and William Seminoff.

On April 6, 1945, the fate of two local boys was particularly hard to bear. "Mrs. Mary Drachnik succumbs," stated a Reporter headline, "after learning of death of son, Lt. John Drachnik."

That same issue reported the death of Pvt. Robert Earl Rayborn, who had been killed on Iwo Jima. One week later, The Reporter printed a letter Robert's brother, Carl, wrote to their parents. Carl also had been a part of the assault on Iwo Jima. "I didn't land with the assault waves, but Robert did," he wrote. "All the time I was aboard I worried about him because I knew it was tough. I worried about Robert continuously day and night."

Carl told his parents that when he got ashore he immediately went to check on the fate of his brother, and the two were happily reunited. Over the course of the next couple of days, they met whenever they could, spending as much time together as possible. Each time they had to part, Carl said, it was very, very difficult, because he was constantly worried about Robert. Then, Carl said, he heard a voice tell him his brother had been killed and that "he didn't suffer. ... My worry is over now, and God bless you, Mother. I hope I can get back soon so you won't have to worry about me for awhile. I'm awfully glad I saw him. ... He was such a swell guy. War has its price, and we are paying."

In the end, Vacaville residents paid that price along with the rest of the country. In all, Vacaville lost 11 native sons to fighting in World War II, according to "Vacaville: The Heritage of a California Community."

The price was steep, but it brought about a just ending.

"This is it! Peace!" screamed a headline on Aug. 17, 1945. "The guns are silent."

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Ads such as these (left) appeared frequently in The Reporter during World War II. One asked women to step into the roles normally held by men, and the other asked everyone to buy war bonds. Women also hosted the Hospitality House (above) for servicemen at Ragsdale Field. Ragsdale Field was later renamed Fairfield-Suisun Army Air Base, and later still became Travis Air Force Base.

Defense began at home ...

(Continued from Page 3)

ly should not be a hardship upon anyone to stand a four-hour shift once a week when some of our citizens are giving their all to their country. Thank God the majority of our citizens are not slackers, otherwise the Mikado and Hitler would govern our country."

The defense council got tough in 1943, warning dim-out violators that consistent failure to comply with regulations would lead to prosecution.

Local businesses, including the Nut Tree, Lloyd

Chandler Furniture and Basic Vegetable Products Co., took out a full-page advertisement in The Reporter on Aug. 6, 1943, to thank the members of the Aircraft Warning Service for keeping an eye to the sky for enemy planes. "There's a place for everyone in the AWS. Here's an important way YOU can help shorten the war by keeping this vital area constantly on alert," said the ad.

By 1944, however, the Allies had gained the upper hand, shifting patriotic concerns away from air raids to questions of what a post-war world would look like.

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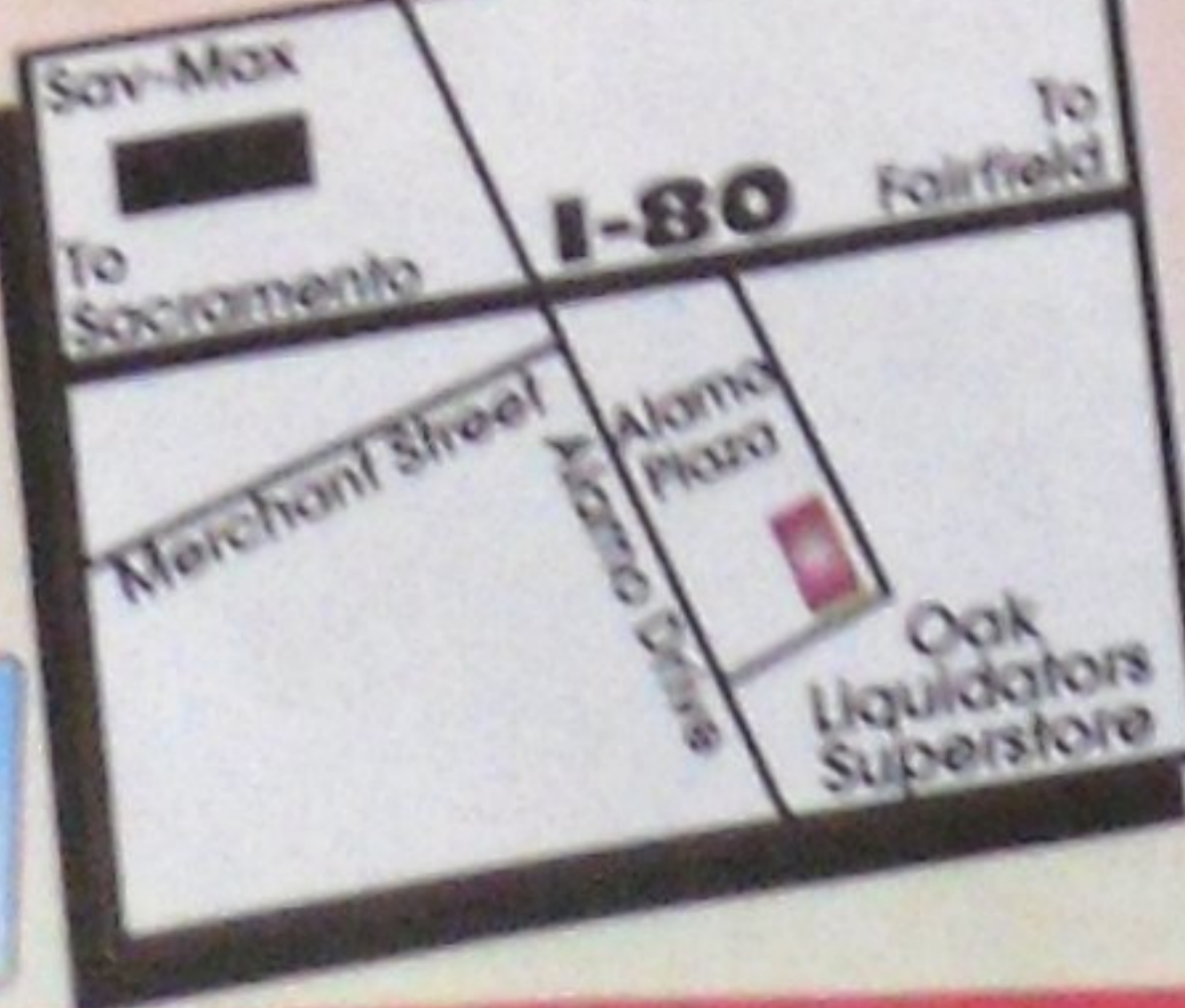
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On behalf of hungry children across America and the victims of the terrible crisis in the Balkans, I want to thank you for your efforts, and those of the communities you represent, in reaching out to people in need.

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We hear stories each day — terrible stories — of children in pain, in struggle, and in terror. And it makes us even more determined to help, especially when we know there are caring sponsors like you behind us, supporting Feed The Children every step of the way. Thank you again for your help in Albania, as well as right here at home!

Your Solano County communities' financial gifts, have helped reach out with food, assistance, and hope to desperate boys and girls. In the last sixty days, you have helped send out over 500 tons of relief supplies to the Kosovar refugees, and more than 5 million pounds of aid to the recent storm victims. You have, and are, making a difference.

Please know the children, and everyone at Feed The Children, are so grateful for your current and future help.

For the children,

Larry

Larry Jones
President



LOCALS ENDURE INTERNMENT



Vacaville residents quietly watch as their Japanese neighbors are escorted onto trains and to internment camps in May 1942.

Pearl Harbor signals end to coexistence

By Rona Marech/Staff Writer

Years of largely peaceful coexistence between Vacaville's white and Japanese residents were sabotaged when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

Suddenly, resentment about the Japanese community's economic successes here, wartime hysteria and racism emerged and led to an ugly and sad chapter in Vacaville's history.

On Dec. 19, 1941, in an open letter to the community, the local chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League wrote: "We as loyal American citizens, stand firm in our loyalty, without reservations, and pledge our lives and our resources in this war against the aggressor."

But these declarations of loyalty were met with an icy reception.

Japanese residents — aliens and citizens alike — were required to turn over their guns, cameras and radios to the police. Their movement in the community was limited, and a curfew was established.

Then on Feb. 21, 1942, four prominent local Japanese men were rounded up by the FBI and "booked" as "dangerous aliens," according to The Reporter.

"I called home right away and they said 'Dad has been pulled in by the FBI. ... We don't know where he is,'" said Joseph Yoshi Saito, now 77, in an interview conducted for an oral history project at the Vacaville Museum. Saito, who had grown up in Vacaville and was a student at University of California, Davis, at the time, did not see his father for three years after that.

Within a few short months,

the lives of all the Japanese living here, 135 aliens and 198 American citizens, according to the 1940 census, were permanently disrupted.

In late March, Japanese residents were told they had one month to evacuate. Local families sold, stored or gave away everything they owned — cars, furniture, farm equipment — except their most valued possessions. The Japanese-owned businesses closed their doors. "An entire block of Japanese firms located in the Japanese district of Vacaville hung out 'closed' signs," the newspaper reported.

"Only war could make this government of a free people take such drastic action — herding one race in totalitarian style," read a Reporter editorial. "This is war at its utmost."

On May 8, 1942, under a photograph of a train carrying 408 Japanese families to an uncertain future, The Reporter wrote that it had been "the most dramatic week in the history of Vacaville."

For the rest of the year, the Japanese who had been involuntarily shipped off to internment camps — first in Turlock and later in Arizona — were not mentioned in the newspaper.

However, as the war neared its end and internment camps were being phased out, questions about Vacaville's Japanese population resurfaced. A majority of residents did not want their former neighbors to return, and organizations such as "No Japs Inc." formed. "Japs are now and have always been a grave menace to the people of this nation," one anti-Japanese organization wrote in March 1944. Vacaville's Chamber of Commerce



Japanese Americans, including those from Vacaville, are put to work at the Gila River internment camp near Rivers, Ariz.



Japanese Americans (left), among them those who had been Vacaville residents, gather at the Gila River internment camp near Rivers, Ariz., June 7, 1944, for their release. Men who had been Vacaville residents (below) gather on the day of their release on June 7, 1944.

Vacaville Heritage Council photos

passed a resolution opposing the return of Japanese citizens and aliens, and 1,500 local residents signed a petition to the same effect.

The controversy raged, often in extreme and crass language, in the pages of The Reporter.

Two Japanese American men from Vacaville who had enlisted in the Army wrote a letter to the paper after they had been told they could visit their home town only if they were accompanied by a military escort. "We realized we were still being treated as enemy



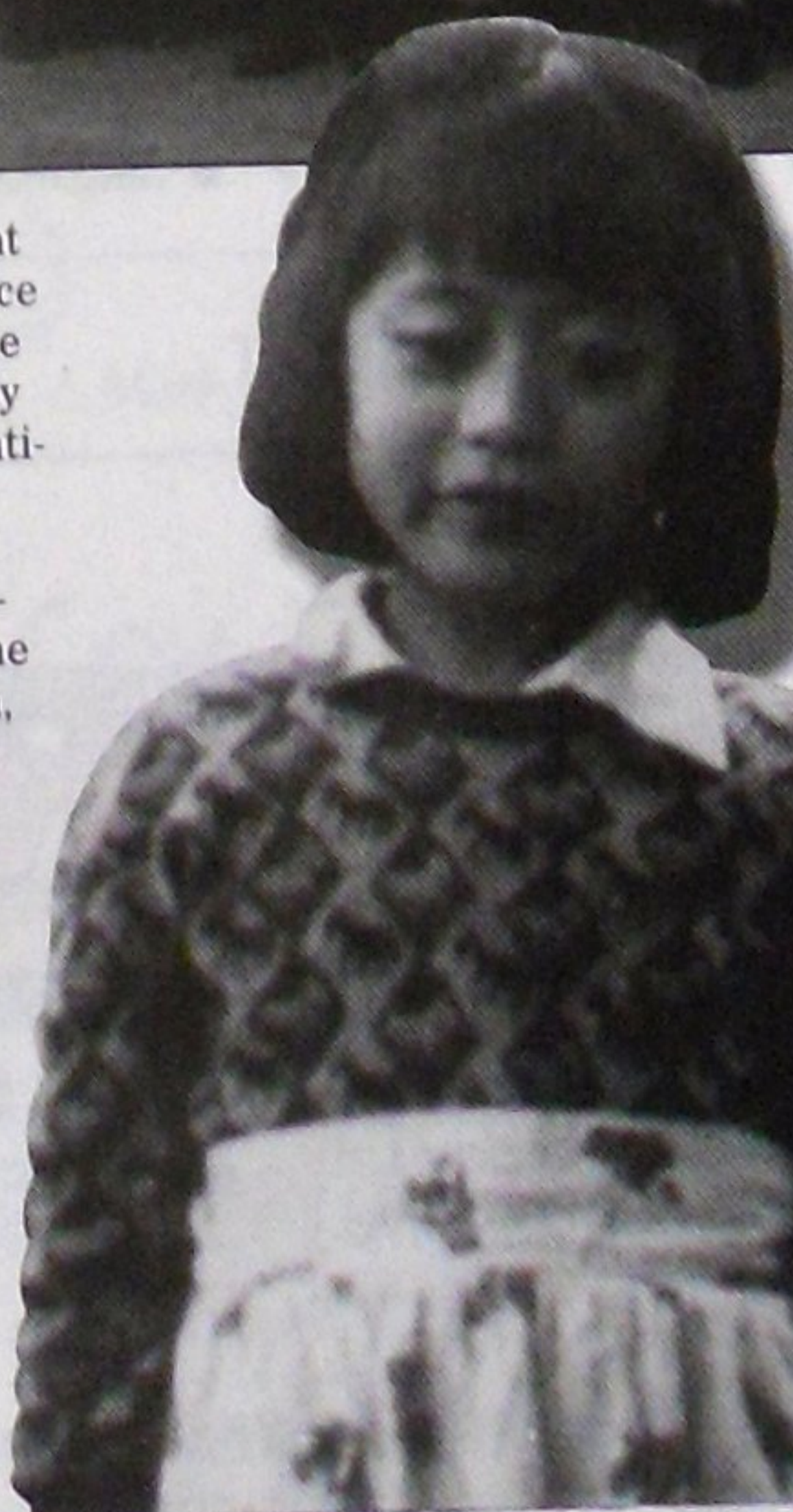
aliens even after induction," they wrote. "Are we wrong if we ask 'give us liberty or expatriation?'"

Several soldiers contributed to the debate from abroad. "I guess the war won't be over for me when I get home," wrote one man who opposed the return of Japanese to Vacaville. "It gives the enemy comfort —

and fuel for propaganda — that the United States practices race discrimination at home," wrote a sergeant who was alarmed by the virulent anti-Japanese sentiment.

The anti-Japanese contingency got their wishes. Unwelcome and pessimistic about the agricultural future of the area, most people of Japanese descent did not return to Vacaville. Their permanent departure was a contributing factor to severe labor shortages in the area.

The Buddhist Temple, which had been a center of cultural life for the Japanese who lived here, burned down in 1951. Today, less than one percent of the population of Vacaville is of Japanese descent.



Headlines from The Reporter in 1942 (far left) tell the story of relocation for Japanese Americans. Many former residents who were sent to internment camps never returned to Vacaville. Misao Hatanaka (left) was a girl in Vacaville during the 1940s.

Vacaville Heritage Council



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REPORTER

1940-1949

THE PAST CENTURY

Civil War vet dies

Edward Robert Spicer, since 1924 a resident of this community, passed away Sunday night at the county hospital, where he had been taken a few hours previously. He had been gradually failing for some time, and it was hoped his last days could be made easier under care of the nurses. Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon at the McCune Funeral Home, Rev. Cecil F. Gamble of the Bethal Full Gospel Church officiating. Mrs. Paul Pippo sang two of Mr. Spicer's favorite hymns, "Rock of Ages" and "Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me," Miss Josephine Bloise at the organ. Pall bearers were old friends and members of his church.

Graveside services were also held at the American Legion plot in the Vacaville-Elmira cemetery, a detachment of the post, under command of Commander Al Hubbard, rendering the last honors to an old soldier.

Mr. Spicer was 92 years old, a native of Middlefield, N.Y. His younger days saw him engaged in the Indian wars and in the civil war he was with General Grant's army. Unfortunately his various army discharge papers were destroyed in the San Francisco earthquake in 1906 and it is impossible to give fuller details of this part of his life.

He was a cement finisher by trade and came to Vacaville in 1924, operating a small ranch near town for some years and later becoming a resident here. He is said to have been the last survivor of the Grand Army of the Republic residing in this community.

Mr. Spicer is survived by his wife, Mrs. Emma Spicer of Vacaville, and a step-daughter, Mrs. Josephine Fraser of San Francisco.

The Reporter
Jan. 3, 1941



Called to service

Members of an all-black unit respond to mail call at the Fairfield-Suisun Army Air Base, later to be renamed Travis Air Force Base. Members of the Pacific Wing's first black unit on Feb. 19, 1944, began arriving at the base just outside Fairfield. More than 2.5 million black men registered for the draft and a large number of black women also volunteered. Segregation in the U.S. military ended July 26, 1948, when President Harry Truman signed Executive Order 9981.

Travis Air Force
Base archive

Vicar offers wartime radio address

The following is a resume of a recent radio address delivered by the Rev. Peter Boes, Vicar of Epiphany Episcopal Church of the city. It was given in response to an invitation extended by the Berkeley Red Cross Chapter's Weekly Radio Program.

As we approach Memorial Day, our grateful hearts are turned especially to those men who have already made the supreme sacrifice for their country's freedom. For them we have a deep reverence and respect, and we pray God that He may give them eternal rest and make us worthy of their great sacrifice. At this particular moment we are also highly concerned over our men's participating in the great invasion of the European fortress. In a material way Americans are doing all that they can to make this a complete success.

The day that the Allies invade Hitler's Europe is to be a special day of prayer in churches and synagogues all over this country. The people of America have been called upon to go to their accustomed place of worship on that day and offer up prayers to

Almighty God, imploring Him that there may be a speedy victory with a minimum loss of life and limb, and that out of this holocaust may come a just and durable peace.

To attain his needs mankind has resorted throughout the ages to three ways — thinking, working and praying. The omission of prayer at this time would be a great tragedy. In a day of world-wide catastrophe on a shaken earth, we need prayers as a source of steadiness, fortitude and courage for ourselves and for our sons and brothers, husbands and sweethearts, fathers and friends fighting that we might have freedom. The splendid material contributions which we are making to the war effort are both necessary and commendable, but our prayers are also indispensable. On the day the invasion is announced or as soon as it is most convenient, won't you make it a point of going to some House of Worship and there with millions of others lift up your heart and prayers to God.

The Reporter
June 2, 1944

Drunks doze as fire burns

When the members of the Vacaville fire department responded to an alarm late Friday night they discovered an amusing situation which could have ended disastrously for two men who had taken on considerable more intoxicating liquors than their stomachs could comfortably absorb. The firemen were called to Ulatis creek at the corner of Main and McClellan streets, where a grass fire had started on the south bank. When the firemen arrived they found two men in a semi-stupor state lying in the path of the fire, which they undoubtedly had started, either by carelessly dropping a cigarette or match. Fire Chief Louis

Pester at first thought the men to be dead — but soon found they were dead drunk.

After extinguishing the fire and giving one of the men a protested shower, the two men were taken to the city jail for the night. The following morning it was learned they were Walter Hursen, 45, and Fred W. Olf, 42, ranch laborers. Constable Monte Gates released the men with instructions they "hit the trail" out of Vacaville.

On Thursday night the department was called out to another grass fire in the vicinity of the Southern Pacific depot. It was extinguished before any damage was done.

The Reporter
July 6, 1945

A PART OF HISTORY

Monty Wilson in his early 20's raced his '64 Plymouth BFX at the old Vacaville Valley Strip on Lewis Road. He was the record holder in 1966 in Vacaville for the fastest lap time and miles per hour in his class. He spent other weekends racing at nostalgic race tracks such as Half Moon Bay and Sears Point. Monty's wife, Eva was also a race enthusiast and in 1967 won a race while being seven months pregnant with their first child!

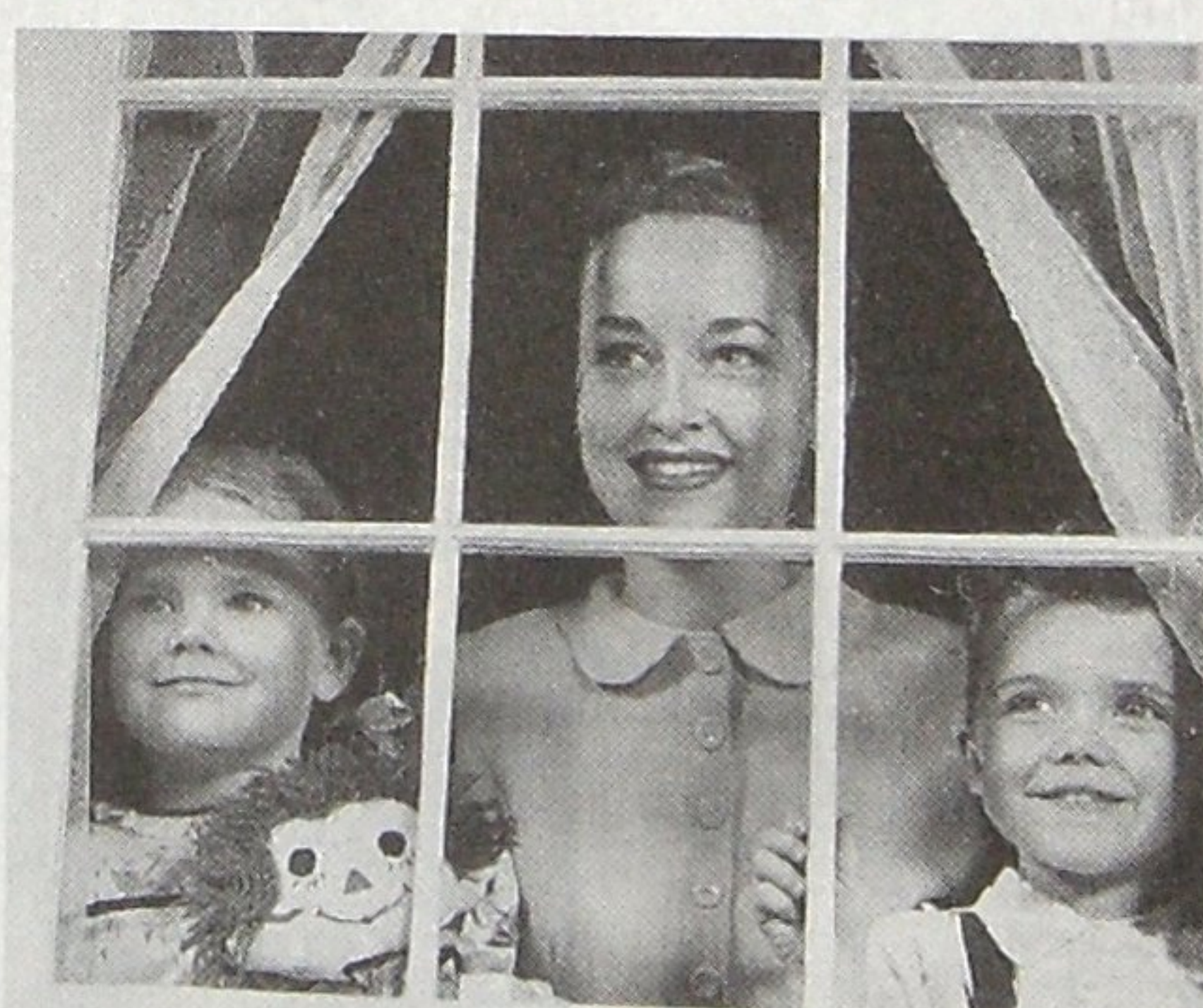
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Monty's '64 BFX Plymouth

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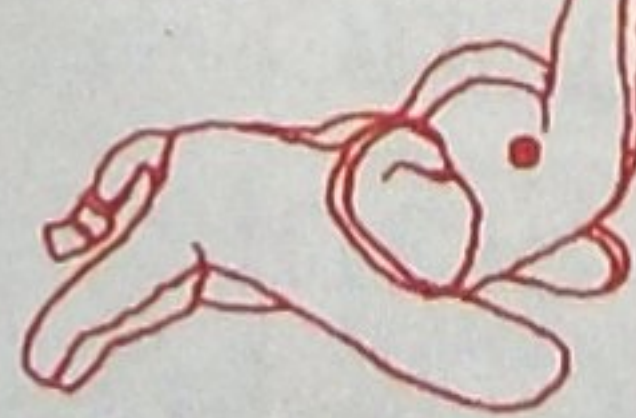
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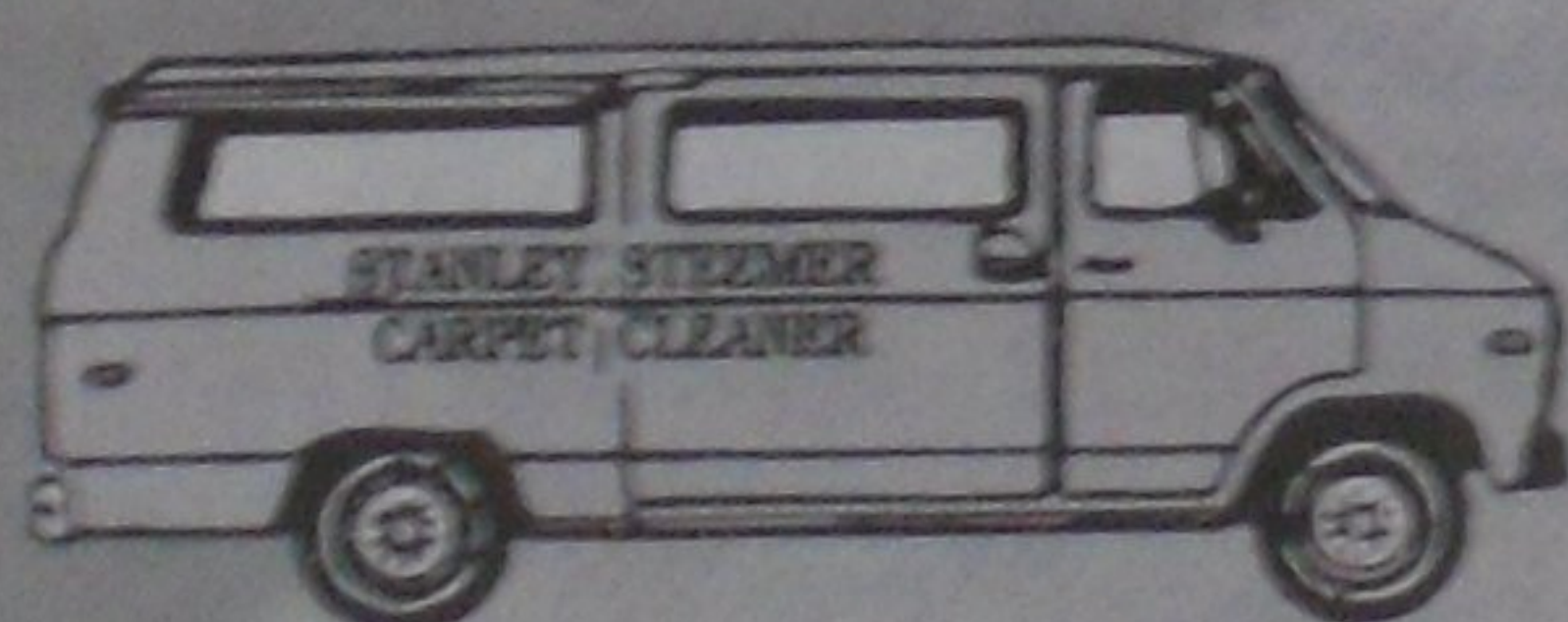
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Vacaville Heritage Council

Paying for war

The price for freedom and fighting a war were high, in death toll and monetary cost. To cover part of the cost of fighting World War II, the government asked American citizens to buy war bonds. The Vacaville High School band (above) played on Main Street in Vacaville during a 1945 "Victory Rally" to help raise funds. An ad in *The Reporter* of April 4, 1943, (right) and many more like it urged citizens to subscribe to war bonds to help fight the war.

Vacaville's Share of War Bond Drive Is \$144,500



Solano County's Share Is Over Three Million Dollars

The world's greatest financial enterprise—Uncle Sam's Second War Bond Drive, starts April 12 with a goal of \$13,000,000,000 in war bonds to be subscribed within the month. The Vacaville committee has been notified that the community's share in the drive is \$144,500. Solano county has been asked to raise \$3,092,000. The Vacaville committee is composed of E. J. Cox, chairman; Ralph Schaefer and Don Isabella.

In this county, as in every other county throughout the United States, patriotic citizens are organizing to carry Uncle Sam's appeal for drastic help to every man, woman and child in the land.

For this Second War drive, the slogan is: "They give their lives—you lend your money."

The spirit of that slogan is to be carried to the people from the Atlantic to the Pacific, with the understanding that the bonds they buy will provide the guns and ammunition, the planes and tanks sorely needed by American fighting men facing the enemy in far-flung battlefronts around the world.

To successfully manage and carry on this gigantic financial undertaking, surpassing anything of its kind ever attempted by this country before, the Treasury Department's two bond selling organizations—the War Savings Staff and the Victory Fund Committee—have been merged into one organization, the War Finance Committee. In the Twelfth Federal Reserve District, embracing California and six other western states, William E. Day is chairman of that committee.

Appealing to his whole district, Day said: "No loyal American can fail his government in this gigantic undertaking. Our boys on the battlefronts are sacrificing their lives to preserve the American way of life—to serve our country."

Election for School Bonds at Elmira

The members of the governing board of the Elmira Elementary School District have called a bond election for April 30th for the purpose of voting bonds in the sum of \$10,000 for the construction of a new school building. The grammar school at Elmira was destroyed by fire last year.

SCHOOL ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN MAY

Elections for school trustees will be held this year on May 21st, and Superintendent of Schools T. C. McDaniel has released the names of the trustees whose terms expire this year. They are as follows: Allendale—Mrs. Ruth Shode. Browns Valley—Everett O. Salsman. Cooper—Charles O. Danielson. Elmira—J. R. Barnes. Oakdale—

Buck recalled as easy victor over his rivals

The late Congressman Frank H. Buck of Vacaville had little trouble in defeating his opponents in the five campaigns he conducted prior to 1942, and his death wrote a sudden death to his political career with the outcome of the 1942 campaign the most doubtful and closest in the ten years that he has occupied the position.

Frank Buck jumped into politics in 1932, to do battle with young Forrest Curry and Sheridan Downey. Downey ran on the Democratic ticket and Buck eliminated him in the primary election and then smashed through to win a sensational race over Curry, the Republican candidate, by a 20,000 vote margin.

In 1934 Buck had as his opponent the well known J. M. Inman of Sacramento and had to fight out the contest in November, winning over the Sacramento man by a 9000 vote margin.

In 1936 Sheridan Downey, riding on the laurels he had won by advocating the Townsend Plan, threw his hat into the race, but Mr. Buck eliminated him in the primary election, and defeated Leroy Johnson of Stockton, the Republican candidate, by a 10,000 margin to win.

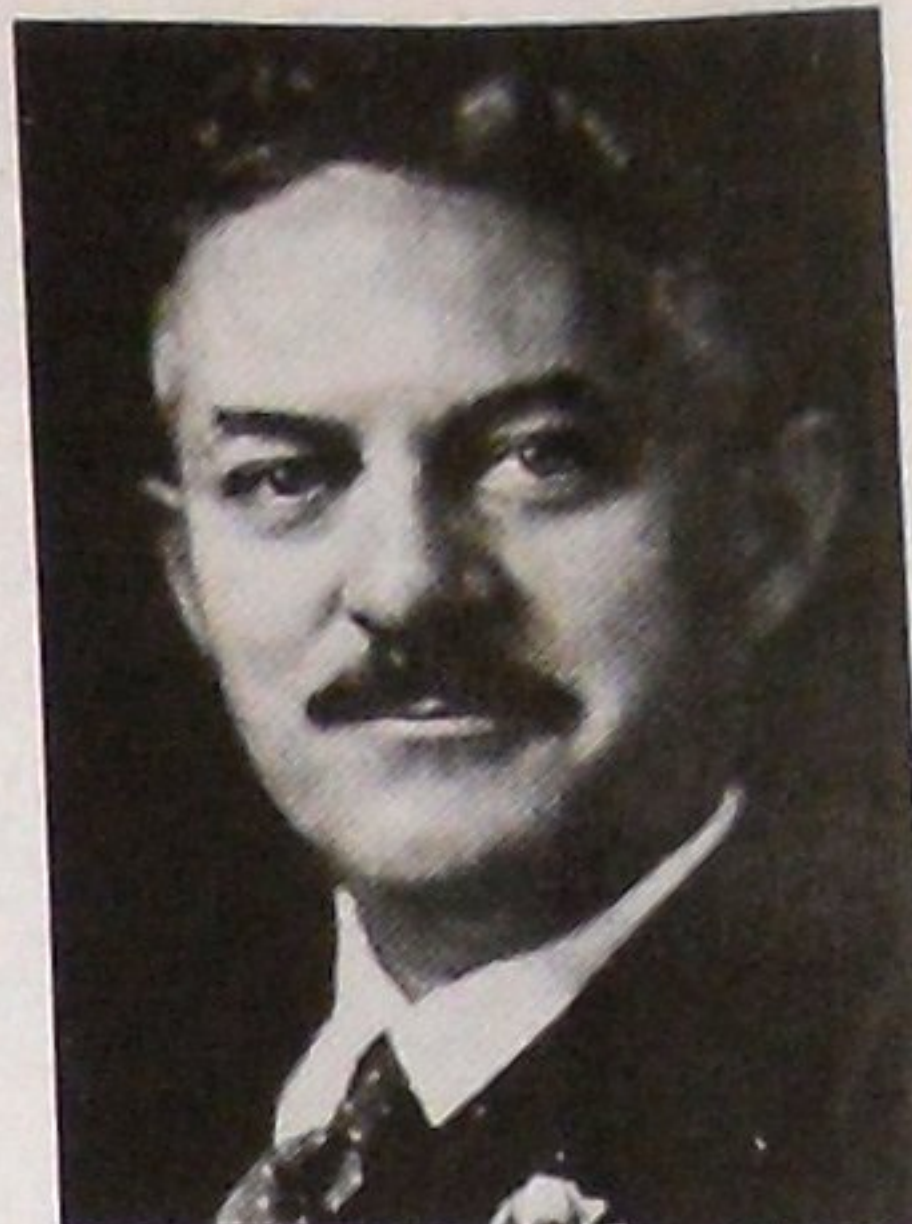
Opponents for Frank Buck in 1938 were few and far between and it was political suicide for anyone to question his popularity. Buck was mentioned as a possible candidate for governor of California in that year. Out of the ranks in Sacramento came George Kimber, who tried vainly to induce the voters to make a change in the congressional seat from the Third District, but the voters swept Mr. Buck back into office in the primaries, winning both the Republican and Democratic nominations.

Again in 1940 George Kimber took another gallant stab at the congressional position, but as in the 1938 election, the voters overwhelmingly returned Frank Buck to Washington by winning for him both party nominations in the primary election.

Adverse publicity was harmful for the Vacaville candidate in 1942, and there were very few who would place a bet on the veteran congressman from the Third District. Assemblyman Ed Cain of Sacramento was a favorite to win, but when the votes were tabulated Mr. Buck had won the Democratic nomination by a scant 2,000 votes. Leroy Johnson of Stockton won the Republican nomination, getting 15,188 votes in the district as compared to 9,942 for Buck.

What the outcome in November would have been is only a guess. Mr. Buck's chances of reelection were good, but that is a thing of the past today.

The Reporter
Sept. 25, 1942



Frank H. Buck Jr.
... 10 years in Congress

Vacaville politician succumbs

With the death of Congressman Frank H. Buck the community of Vacaville has lost one of its most valued citizens. Frank Buck was a home town boy that reached a pinnacle of success which perhaps may never again be shared by the community.

Frank Buck's congressional record was proof that he voted his own convictions. He voted for or against the measures he thought would be in the best interests of the nation. He voted "yes" on most of the legislation placed before the House of Representatives, but in many instances, such as the Supreme Court incident several years ago, his vote was a positive "no."

No greater honor was ever bestowed on the community of Vacaville than that which it enjoyed by having a representative in congress. Throughout the nation when stories appeared in the newspapers about Frank Buck, there was always linked the name of Vacaville.

The position he merited as a member of the Ways and Means Committee was typical of his standing in the nation's capital. His principles were humanitarian principles, and his district enjoyed benefits which have exceeded many throughout the nation.

The name of Frank Buck will live in the hearts of the people of this community for decades.

Frank Henry Buck has answered his last call, and today he rests in peace.

The Reporter
Oct. 2, 1942

Vaca High Bulldogs open season

In keeping with the program of the army and navy for physical fitness, the boys of the Vaca high school are being urged to participate in athletics. The response has been gratifying and 35 boys are now in football uniforms. A schedule has been arranged in which all the players will be given an opportunity to play. Vacaville will play two games with Armijo on the same afternoon and everyone will see action. The same plan will be followed against Rio Vista.

The game today is the first of the season for Coach Mitchell's team and is against the Alumni. Harry Talbot has rounded up a squad of ex-Vaca high stars and promises to give the high school a ding-dong battle.

The Reporter
Oct. 2, 1942

Oldest area resident dies

Vaca descendant was 99 years old

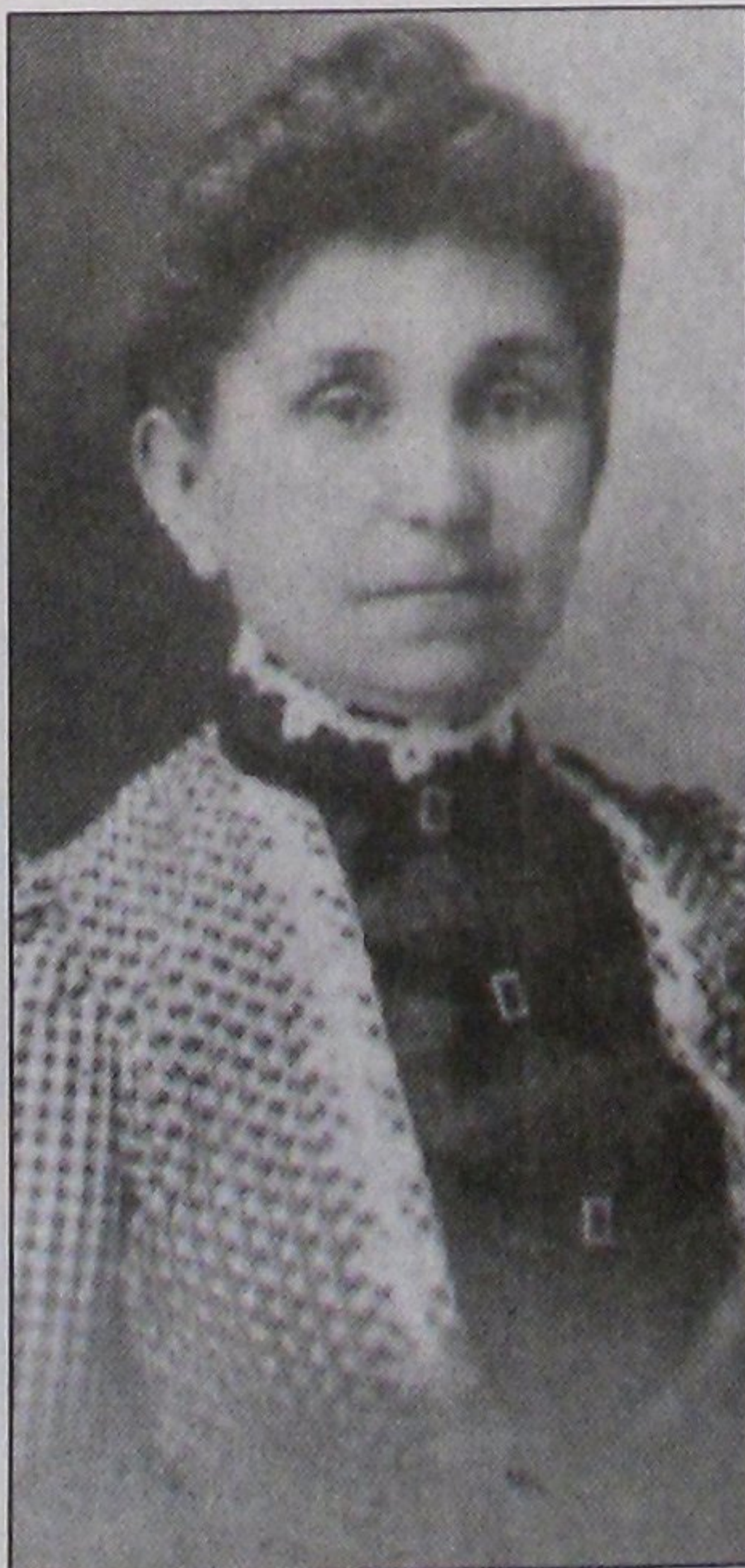
The sad news of the passing of undoubtedly the oldest native resident of Solano county was received yesterday as the Reporter was going to press. Word was received that Mrs. Maria Dolores Vaca Lyon died at 3:05 p.m. at her home. She was 99.

Mrs. Lyon passed away quietly at her home here following a lingering illness. Funeral services are pending. She is survived by two daughters, one son and a number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Lyon was born in an adobe home two miles south of Vacaville October 3, 1849.

She was the granddaughter of Manuel Vaca, after whom the city of Vacaville was named. Before her marriage to John Lyon, she had attended St. Dominican's Convent in Benicia and the California College in Vacaville. She had been living with her two daughters, Miss Anita and Nestora Lyon, for many years at the family home in Vacaville. The home is perhaps the oldest in the city.

The Reporter
Dec. 3, 1948



Maria Dolores Vaca Lyon, 99, was granddaughter of Manuel Vaca for whom Vacaville is named.

Reporter file photo

Device of malice, sabotage found not far from Vacaville

A clever device, the work of mischievous youngsters or built for an act of sabotage, was discovered by Vernon Christopher on his ranch west of town on Wednesday and turned over to Officer Will Davisson. The device is now in the hands of the sheriff's office for examination.

It consisted of the remnants of what was once a heavily built rubber balloon, which could have measured more than a foot in diameter. Attached to the balloon was a cylindrical paper tube, in which was placed a candle, and when found the tallow residue of the candle and a part of the wick were in the bottom of the tube. The candle had been lit and when the balloon burst, the paper cylinder and its contents descended to the ground. A hole was burned through the bottom of the paper cylinder, but as it landed on culti-

vated ground it failed to do any damage.

The construction of the ingenious device reflected the work of a crafty person, as every detail was worked out to perfection. The paper tube had a small folding lid on top to keep the wind from blowing out the candle. The stem of the balloon was wrapped tightly with a rubber band, and the cylinder was suspended from the balloon by a string, attached to a wire handle on the cylinder.

There is every indication the device was meant as a means for sabotage. It could have been released from an automobile, and it may have been released from a submarine off shore.

Deputy Sheriff Oliver took possession of the device and it is to be turned over to army authorities.

The Reporter
July 17, 1942

Meeting the Challenges of Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow



Walter P. Chrysler
b. 1875 - d. 1940

**1940 - Walter P. Chrysler
Dies at age 63**

1940 - 1949

Near the beginning of American involvement in World War II, Chrysler Corporation had already begun preparations and was supplying 25- and 28-ton tanks to allied forces in Europe. Fortunately for American motorists, this wouldn't hinder Chrysler's automobile production -- at least for a little while longer.

Most notable of the early-40s vehicle launches was the luxury-oriented Town & Country wagon which debuted in 1941. This precursor to the modern-day Town & Country minivan featured optional nine-passenger seating, a rear hatch, and was the first wagon to include genuine wood exterior panels. Not surprisingly, the original "Woody" made a big splash with the public, especially during the post-war era with a popular convertible version hitting the highways in 1949. Starting price -- a reasonable \$3,970.

Chrysler automobile production was halted in 1942, and the company's full attention was diverted to the war effort. Until the war ended in 1945, Chrysler factories and employees cranked out everything from engines for the B-29 Superfortress to Pershing tanks and 40mm trailer-mounted anti-aircraft guns. In total, Chrysler had completed 66 military projects valued at more than \$3.4 billion between 1940 and 1945.

On a more somber note, the company's founder, Walter P. Chrysler, died on August 18, 1940. He kept an active role within the company until he fell ill in 1938, at the age of 63. However, the company he established remained as his legacy.

1941 - Chrysler revealed its Latest model the Town & Country wagon, later available as a convertible. This car was the original "Woody."

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Dear Friends,
What a splendid time we live in!

I can say that with total ease while at the same time reflecting on the past and realizing we can be very proud of those who came before us. On this page you have been reading about Walter Chrysler and some of the amazing tribulations he went through, along with a huge dose of rather spectacular accomplishments. It was men and women like Chrysler who in large measure brought us to the cutting edge of today's technology. Imagine what would have happened if Chrysler, Ford and Edison had computers?

At Dodge Chrysler Plymouth/Jeep of Vacaville we are proud of both our heritage and our future. We have worked hard, and with passion to build a strong reputation. We have worked equally hard to use all of today's ultra-speed conveniences to better serve our customers. People who visit our dealership are truly trusted as family. When it comes down to it, it's all about "Doing the Right Thing."

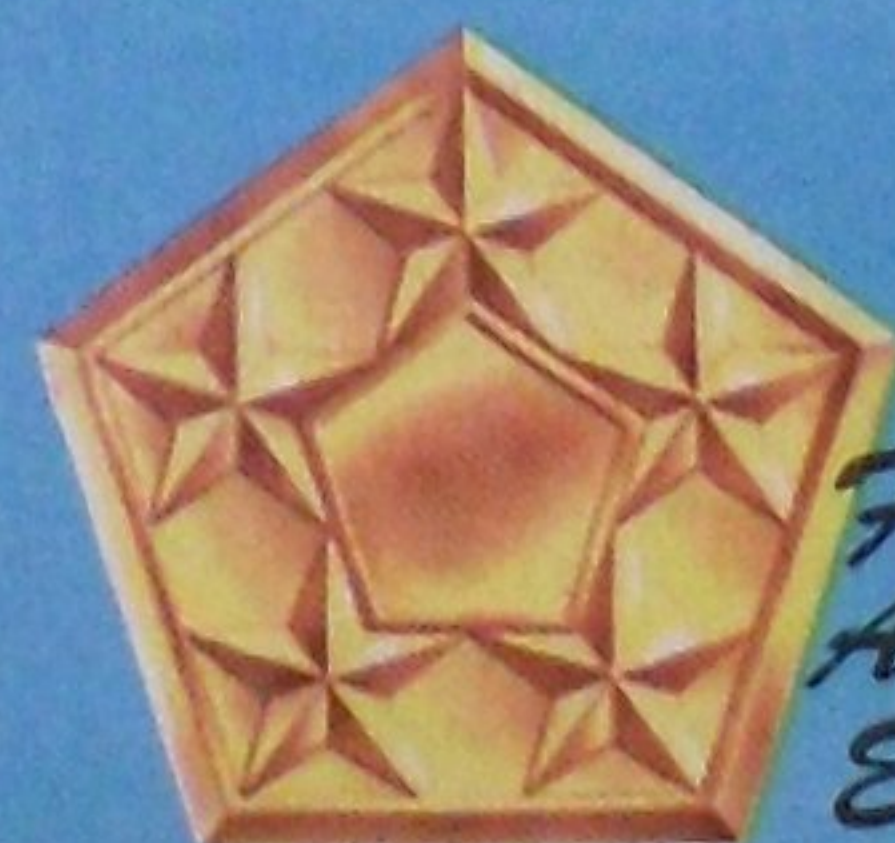
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1940-1949

THE PAST CENTURY

War, jobs bring housing boom to Vacaville area

Air base, war industries draw workers needing new homes

Barbara Smith
Special to The Reporter

In 1941, Vacaville's leisurely pre-war growth was reflected in a Reporter full-page ad picturing the charming new homes of Mr. and Mrs. Delmar McCune on Main Street and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Miller at the corner of Luzena and Kentucky streets.

Contractors boasted their skills, including "Hardwood Floors by Fred Evanikoff; Linoleum Work by Lloyd Chandler Furniture Co.," and "Painting by Roland Neil." Vacaville residents planning their dream homes and the men who built them were unaware of the shadow of the war looming on the housing horizon.

From that point on, Vacaville's desperate need for housing gripped the city well into the next decade.

During the war years, hundreds of people canvassed Vacaville in search of housing. Families previously living at labor camps in Winters now were working in war industries, and they needed homes. So did employees at Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo. Hundreds of new employees had been hired at Basic Vegetable Products, and more were expected to join the payroll as the war progressed.

Expansion of military and

civilian personnel at Ragsdale Field, later known as the Fairfield-Suisun Army Air Base and today known as Travis Air Force Base, presented yet another influx of home seekers.

The housing shortage in Vacaville reached emergency proportions. The Chamber of Commerce's housing committee, including Homer Bolter and Dom Isabella, fought an aggressive campaign to solve the problem. After contacts with federal housing officials, they were notified that the War Department had approved construction of 50 private homes in Vacaville. Next, Vacaville was approved for the construction of 140 temporary housing units.

This 140-unit project, named Vaca Valley Acres, was built on 10 acres bordering Walnut Avenue, Merchant Street and Lovers Lane. The second set of Federal Housing Administration homes were built on Kentucky Street, Elm Street and Luzena Avenue.

Yet 200 new housing units would not supply the demand. New construction brought workers to town, who also needed shelter. Vacaville had no hotel, no boarding house and no rooms. Some slept in their cars.

In November 1943, the Vacaville Housing Authority was formed to work exclusively with the federal government on the

housing problem.

This committee, headed by Isabella, Ralph Schaefer and Howard Rogers Jr., worked to bring 60 more temporary housing units. This project, built near Dobbins and Kendall streets, would be named Ulati Park. But first, the area, referred to as "Japtown" and considered a slum, would have to be razed. The eight families still residing in the Dobbins Street buildings were "cleared out," a Reporter story read.

After the war ended, Vacaville industries and people began to take the housing crisis into their own hands. In 1946, Basic Vegetable Products constructed 20 temporary housing units on its property east of the plant. PG&E, planning on expansion of the Vaca-Dixon substation, built a Quonset-type house on Wilson Street to house 30 employees.

James Caughy Jr. set the pace for a building boom that would provide housing for Vacaville for

years to come. In 1946 he began building 39 homes on a parcel of land on the western outskirts of town, a continuation of Walnut Street to Lovers Lane.

Two months later, Isabella hired Napa builders Samuel R. Geddes and James J. Smith to construct a million-dollar housing project on a 33-acre portion of the former Parker Estate adjoining the southern limits of town.

They built 107 homes of Basolite, concrete blocks manufactured in Napa. The project, named Vaca Valley Village, today is referred to as "The Village."

At the time, it was considered "the greatest development step in the history of Vacaville," a story in The Reporter boasted.



Cliff Pollard/The Reporter

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H. C. Bolter Realtor

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425 Main Street Vacaville, California

World War II helped foster a housing boom in Vacaville with growing activity at Mare Island Naval Shipyard and what would become Travis Air Force Base, especially in neighborhoods of what was then just west of downtown (above). In an ad in the May 2, 1947, edition of The Reporter (left), the Caughy subdivision advertised homes with many conveniences.

The Fairfield Brewers of

Budweiser

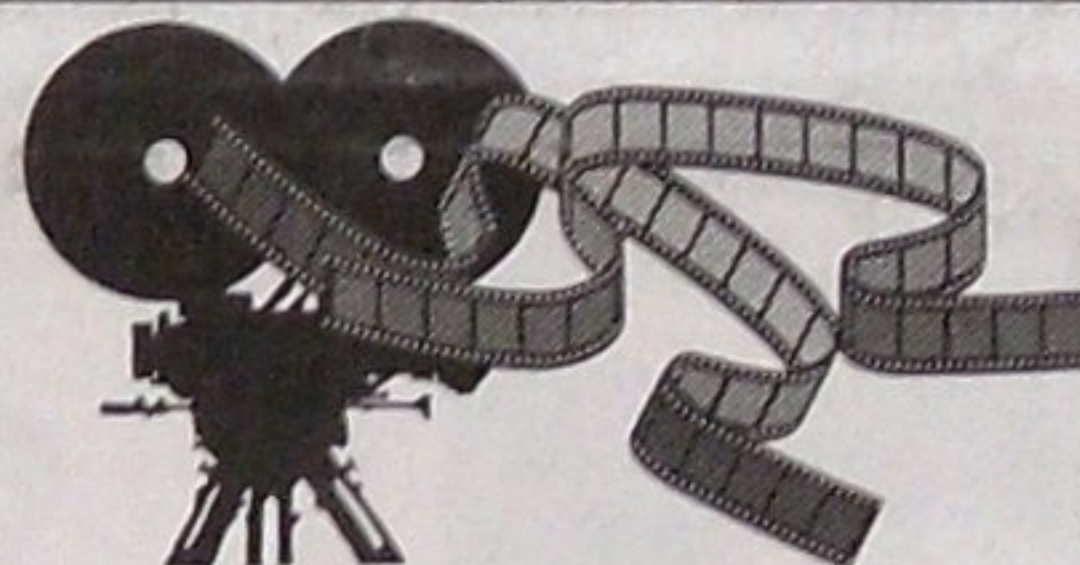
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A look back... 1940-1949

Jewelry Spotlight: Pearl

The birthstone for June, a pearl is conchiolin (nacre) layered concentrically around an irritant in a mollusc. Basically, if there is an irritant in an oyster, the oyster will coat it, ensuring its own comfort. However, as conchiolin is an organic substance, it tends to change, particularly if dehydrated. The average "life-span" of a pearl is between 100 and 150 years, although a few rare good-quality pearls exist which are known to be several hundred of years in age.

Because of the delicacy of a pearl's orient, pearl's must be treated delicately:

- ❖ Store them in tissue or soft cloth, and not jumbled in with harder gemstones.
- ❖ Don't expose them to acid-based hairsprays, cosmetics, or colognes.
- ❖ Put pearls on after applying perfumes, cosmetics, or hairspray.
- ❖ Never clean them with abrasives or chemicals, but rather with mild soap and water.
- ❖ Depending on how much you wear your strand, get your pearls restrung once a year at a jeweler's. Have a knot tied between each pearl.



Pearls vary wildly in shape. They can be irregular and asymmetrical (baroque), or perfectly symmetrical. Pearls can be flat and oblong (angel wings), or symmetrical spheres, ovals, tear-shapes, or pear-shapes. The more symmetrical the shape, the more valuable the pearl.

Pearls also come in a great variety of sizes. They can be as small as the head of a pin, or as large as a pigeon's egg. The world's largest known pearl weighs 450cts and is in the South Kensington Geological Museum in London. Nevertheless, a pearl's value is not determined strictly by size. A pearl's lustre is of prime importance. This lustre, called "orient," is produced by the skins of nacre and overlapping platelets of aragonite (a calcium deposit found in mother-of-pearl) near the surface of the pearl. The deeper the iridescence and lustre, the more valuable the pearl.

Pearls are available in a variety of natural colours. They can be golden, white, pink, silver, cream, blue, or black. Darker skin tones are best suited by golden or cream coloured pearls, whereas pale complexions are flattered by rosy hues.

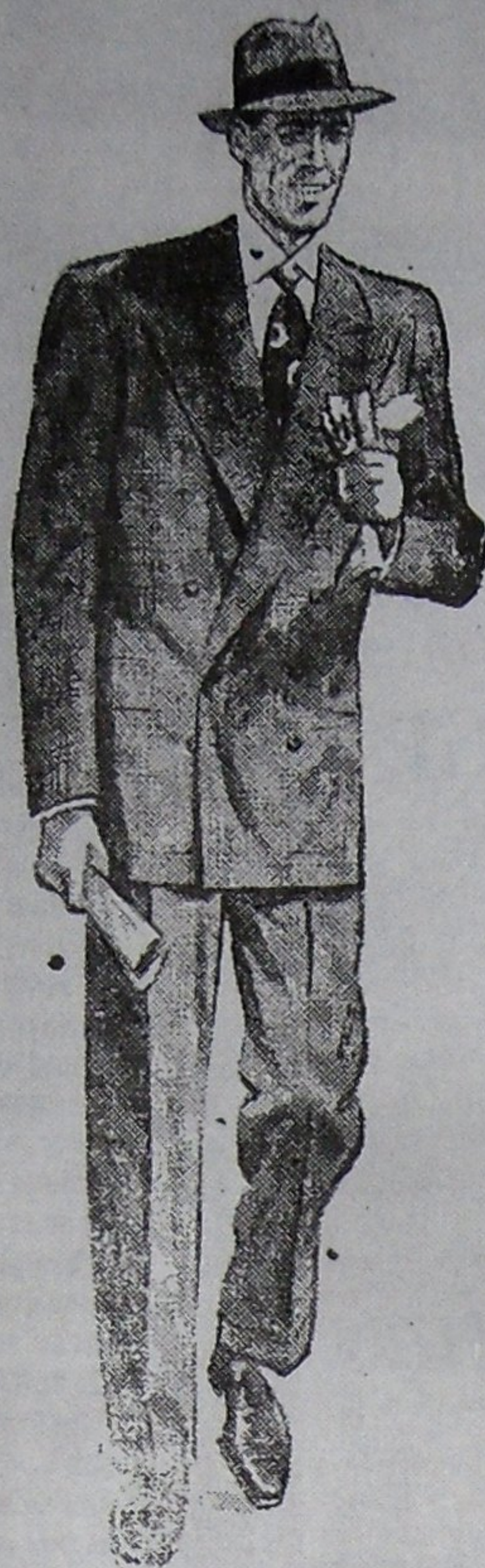
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Vacaville Drug Company

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Fashion and good
grooming were lauded
in these Reporter ads
of the '40s. Men and
women could get a
"smart suit" (far left;
June 24, 1949), be
"fashion-smart"
(above; Jan. 10, 1947),
or know they have
"hair that wins
romance" (left; June
14, 1940).Gun leads
to arrest
of VacanSacramento police on
Thursday took into cus-
tody Gaetano DeRenzi, 62,
known to many Vacaville resi-
dents as "Gates." When brought
before Police Judge James M.
McDonnell he was given the
alternative of spending 50 days
in jail or paying a \$100 fine. He
accepted the jail sentence. The
charge was brought against him
for having a weapon in his car.DeRenzi, an Italian alien, is
accused of having failed to reg-
ister as an enemy alien and
Judge McDonnell was told that
the federal authorities will take
the prisoner into custody when
his jail term expires. His penal-
ty will no doubt be confinement
in a concentration camp.DeRenzi was to have been
employed in a cannery at Sacra-
mento.The Reporter
April 24, 1942Boys grab
fast rideJoe Pulido and Jack Silva, of
Vacaville, stationed with the
Army Air Corps at Bakers
field, were given a fast ride
from that city to Sacramento on
Saturday night in an Army
bomber. The young men had
only a few hours leave, and
were given permission to be
passengers in the bomber,
which was flying north. They
remained in Vacaville two
hours, and then took a bus back
to Bakersfield, completing the
round trip and visit in less than
18 hours.The Reporter
Jan. 30, 1942Where their
money goes.

FIRST NORTHERN BANK

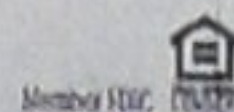
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some banks are becoming larger
and more impersonal, First
Northern remains committed to
providing individualized service,
quick response and local loan
decisions.Where our
money goes.This has made First Northern
a very stable bank, and that's a
big reason more and more people
every day are saying, "First
Northern, that's my bank!"

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That's My Bank!

Vacaville Branch

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Just before the Second World War broke out
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machine with a rotating industrial hook, a fast
machine, which was to a great extent
exported to America.The Second World War caused practi-
cally the whole of Husqvarna's export
organization to collapse. However, in
1944 the company broke all previous
sales records by selling 50,000
machines.The technical development in the entire world
was aimed at military needs and innovations. As
early as 1940 the jet plane made its debut.As Sweden never got drawn into the war
Husqvarna was able to continue without distur-
bance the technical development which started in
the 30's.The Swedish company presented the
first free-arm machine in 1947:
Husqvarna Zig-Zag. It was a light weight,
handy and elegant machine in die-cast
aluminum.All fashion-conscious people will
remember the year 1947 for another rea-
son — it was the year that Christian Dior
shook the fashion world with The New Look and
tried to once again dress women in long skirts and
masses of material.

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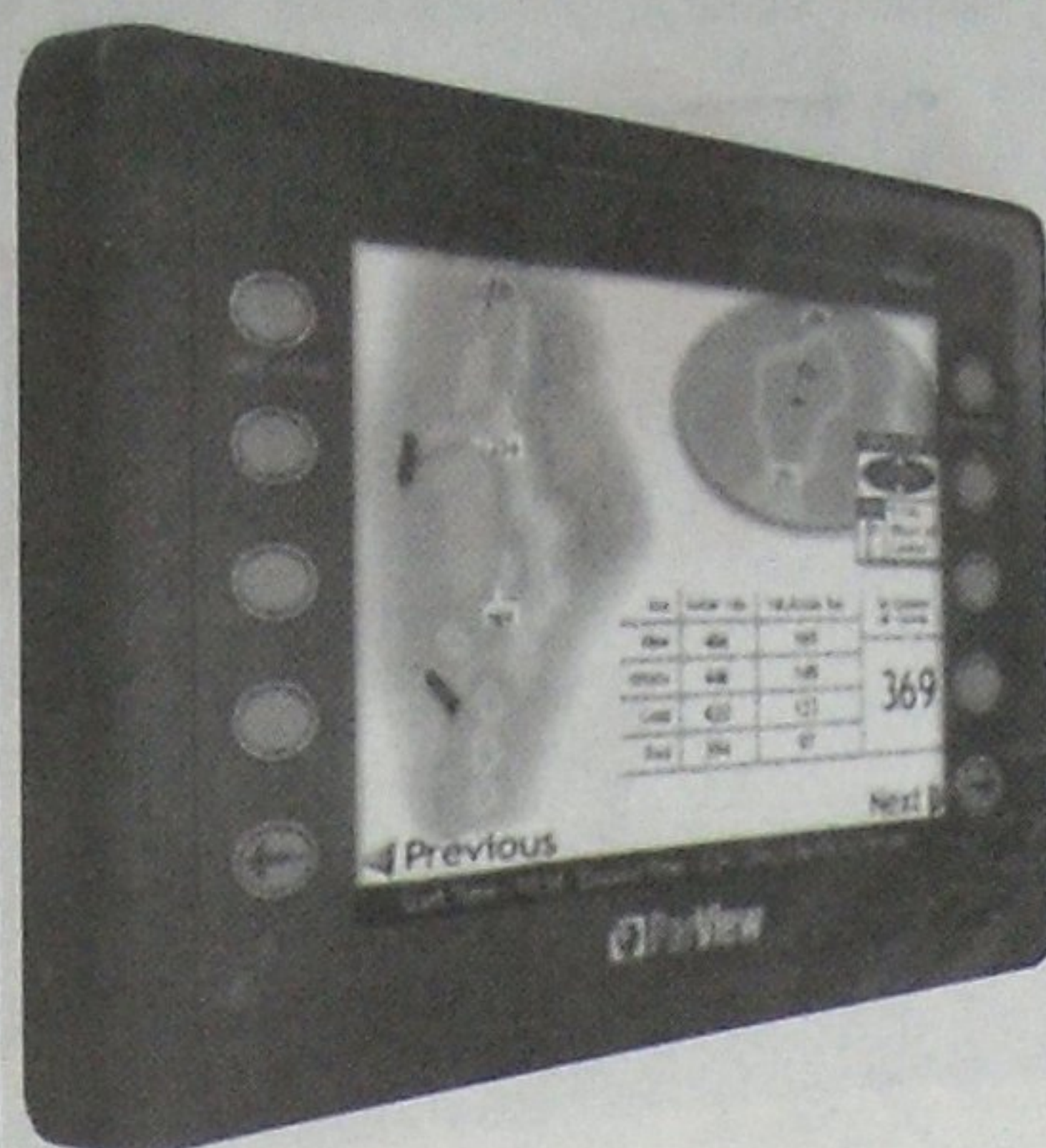
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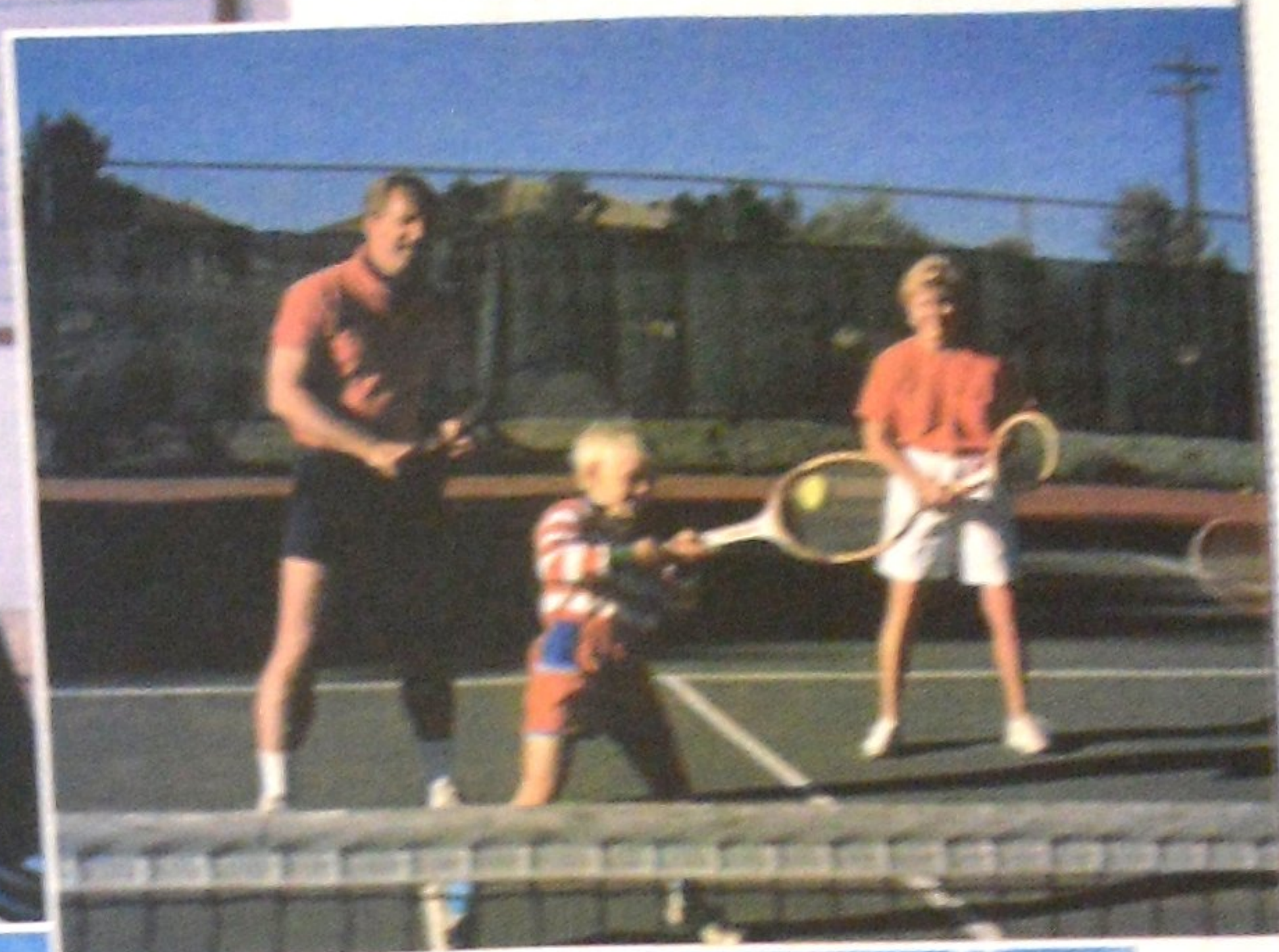
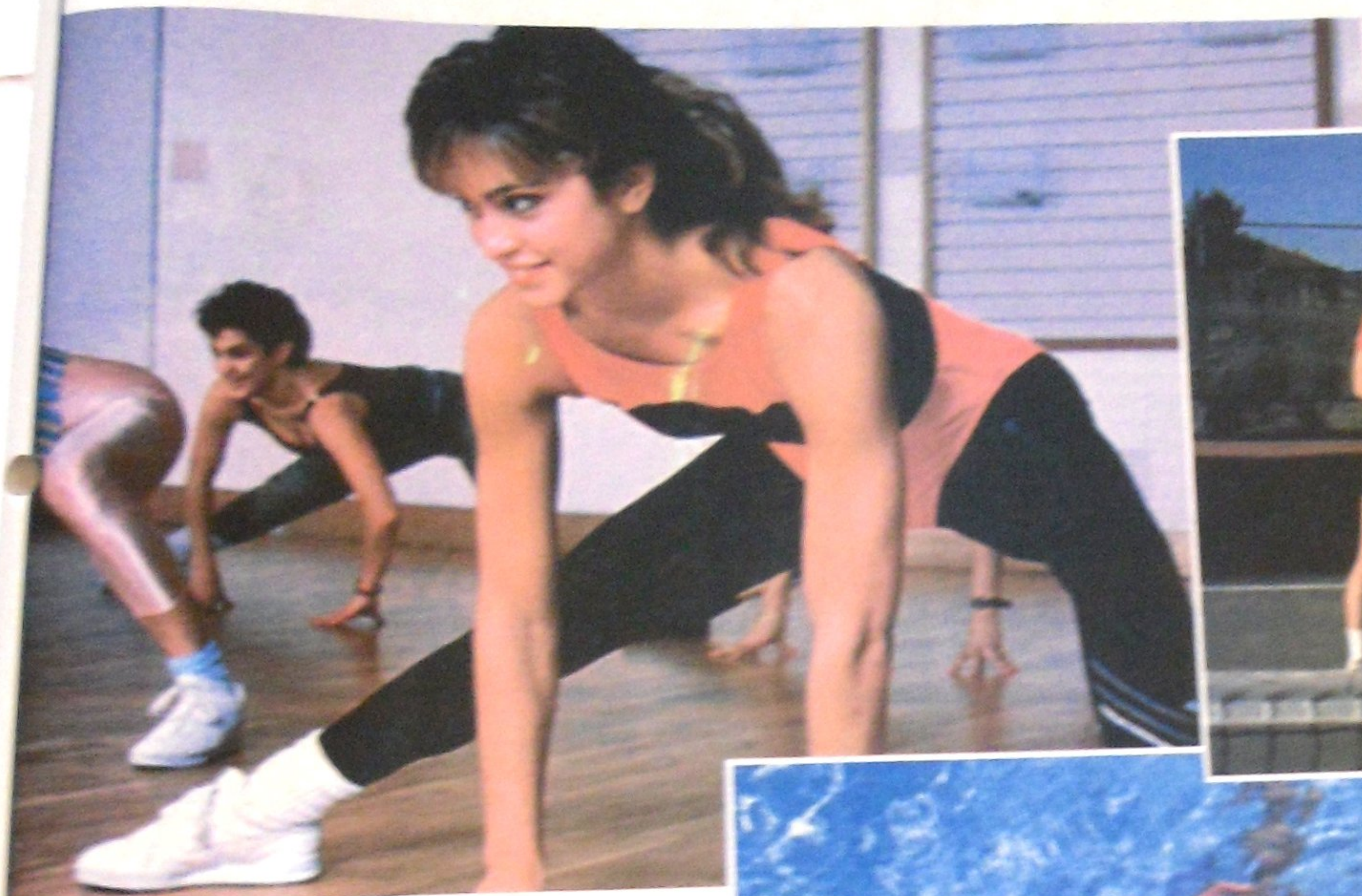
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Ex-Vacan, once hero, faces jail

Army saying
crash man's fault

John R. Patrick, 27, a former resident of Vaca Valley Acres at Vacaville, who in November was hailed as a hero for exploits during the sinking of an army transport plane in the Pacific is now facing a six months jail sentence and a fine of \$2,000.

According to press dispatchers, Patrick was accused of failing to "determine positively" whether the plane had been refueled before the takeoff. He held the position as civilian flight officer with the Air Transport Command, and was stationed at the Fairfield-Suisun Army Air Base, making his home at Vaca Valley Acres. The charge against Patrick, as announced by headquarters of the commanding general of the Pacific Division, Honolulu, is involuntary manslaughter in the tragedy which took 18 lives.

He was widely acclaimed as a hero after the crash Nov. 3rd, 500 miles northeast of Honolulu en route to Fairfield.

One of the eight survivors, Patrick was credited with rescuing the only woman passenger.

The flight officer figured widely in the news when the woman he saved, Mardieze Anna Trautman, civilian employee of the Hawaiian air depot said, "It was my rosary, good luck and John Patrick that saved me."

Public relations officers said the general court martial which tried Patrick also convicted him of destruction of government property through "wrongful neglect."

Patrick was accused of failing to "determine positively" whether the plane had been refueled before the takeoff. His defense, according to the public relations office, was that he did take precautions.

The sentence is subject to review and possible revision by Maj. Gen. William Ord Ryan commanding the ATC, Pacific Division.

Patrick, who had resided in Vacaville two years at the time of the crash, is a veteran of numerous South Pacific flights and was a former test flight engineer for Consolidated at San Diego. His present address was listed as Tulare.

After he and the other survivors were rescued at sea, Patrick warmly praised by the only woman rescued, who said she owed her life to his coolness and presence of mind.

Patrick disclaimed any credit for heroism. He said: "I saw Miss Trautman clinging to the wing of the plane and paddled over to her in the life raft I was on, loosened her grip on the plane and helped her aboard. That's all there was to it."

The Reporter
Jan. 18, 1946

War sparks discoveries

The war-inspired discoveries of American scientists herald a post-war world of health, comfort and plenty. So spoke an eminent American chemist before the American Chemical Society in Buffalo, N.Y., the other day.

It would be strange, indeed, if his prediction were not true. War has already speeded up research in the fields of chemistry, or metallurgy, of food, of medicine, and hastened the production of new inventions. When days of peace return, America should find herself better equipped than ever before to harness the stream of plenty. With her greater wealth of mass production facilities, and nation-spanning retail distribution systems to make products available to millions of consumers in the biggest city to the humblest cross-roads community, we, as a nation, have good reason to look for a new age of progress in the time to come.

Editorial, The Reporter
Sept. 25, 1942

AGRICULTURE'S RECUPERATION

War boosts farming, city sees changing times ahead

By Cynthia Roberts
Special to The Reporter

A front-page photo of boxed ripe cherries was the "proof we weren't foolin'," said The Reporter in a story predicting that Vacaville would be shipping out California's first fresh cherries of the 1949 season.

It was a sentimental symbol of grander days for Vacaville fruit ranchers.

Sentiments aside, however, 1949 was reported to be the poorest fruit season in Vacaville's history. Only 73 carloads of fresh fruit were shipped out from the two remaining packing houses. Twenty years prior, noted The Reporter, Vacaville averaged more than 1,000 carloads each season.

Agriculture did get a big boost when World War II started. The front-page story in The Reporter's Jan. 12, 1940, edition quoted a Sacramento investment expert predicting that U.S. goods would be a source for a world at war and that "rising prices are inevitable and this will bring out farm centers the first real prosperity in several years."

For those ranchers not turning their land into the city's newest housing spots, making a living on the land meant changing crops. Tomato production grew to the east and into Dixon. Such row crops were a viable alternative.

Dried fruit and nuts continued to be in demand. Although many fruit grow-

ers associations faded from the scene during the decade, the prune and apricot growers stuck together through the late 1940s. The newspaper followed dried prune prices closely.

Vaca Valley Orchards, a mail-order dried fruit company established in the late 1930s, did much to buoy the local economy, at times employing as many as 200 local workers during peak seasons.

In August 1948, The Reporter expressed great relief when the world's largest dried fruit and nut processors, Rosenberg Bros. & Co., was purchased by a San Francisco holding company. Word was that Rosenberg was to be liquidated. But the company that traditionally set the market for California dried fruits and nuts was saved.

Good news, noted The Reporter, since Vacaville growers sold thousands of tons of dried fruit to the company.

Despite the demise of the fresh fruit business, agriculture remained an important component in the local economy. Poultry and cattle were plentiful. Two local dairy operations, Wykoff's Dairy and Vaca Valley Creamery, were important suppliers to local businesses and government.

Both dairies won top prizes for their milk products at the 1947 California state fair.

Map made entirely of Vaca Valley fruits

The hard work and artistic taste of a number of Vacaville people will be represented at the county fair at Dixon this year in the form of a map of the United States made entirely of the fruit products of Vaca Valley. The map was drawn and built by enthusiastic residents of Vacaville who believed that the valley deserved something distinctive at the fair at which the products of the county will be shown. A large sign with the legend "Vaca Valley Fruits for the United States" will top the map.

The work was in the

hands of a committee of Vacaville people composed of Miss Muriel Nevin, Walter Schaefer, A.F. Fruhling, Mrs. Mary Fernandez and E.H. Uhl, who processed the fruit and donated the use of his packing shed, where the map was built. It is 6 feet by 12, and the states are outlined by the use of different dried fruits — prunes, nectarines, plums, figs, pears and apricots. A portion of Mexico and Canada are also shown in grains, which form an appropriate background for the fruit.

The Reporter
May 3, 1940

Extra! extra! 'Dry' cow victim of milk robbery

One of the most unusual robberies ever reported to Chief of Police O.E. Alley was called to his attention early Wednesday morning when John Dunton, who lives on Dobbins Street, reported to him that someone had stolen the milk from his cow early that morning. When Dunton

went out to milk the cow he discovered a "dry" animal.

If Chief Alley can find the marauder that squeezed that cows' teats he will have earned himself the first stepping stone to an important FBI position.

The Reporter
Nov. 13, 1942

This Jan. 3, 1947, ad in The Reporter touts the wares at a Main Street ice cream shop.

Agriculture remained an important component in the local economy. Poultry and cattle were plentiful. Two local dairy operations, Wykoff's Dairy and Vaca Valley Creamery, were important suppliers to local businesses and government. Both dairies won top prizes for their milk products at the 1947 California state fair.



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Orders For Special Occasions Filled
BRICK - BULK & NOVELTIES

No Limit on Quantities
BANANA SPLIT
Special every day — NUT ROLL

V-ICE CREAM PARLOR

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Every Little Boost Helps

You can do your bit by using envelopes with the cut displayed below printed on them. This is an inexpensive way to help Vacaville advertise its most valued product—fruit. There are tens of thousands of envelopes mailed from Vacaville to every corner of the United States annually.

AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO

VACAVILLE, CALIFORNIA



The Vacaville Reporter is doing its part by printing these envelopes at an astonishingly low price so that as many envelopes as possible of this type may be used here. These envelopes are of fine quality—the same grade used by many Vacaville business firms.

500 in a box \$1.25

Vacaville Reporter

Vaca Valley Orchards' Robert B. Hawkins began the mail-order business during the Depression and the business did much for Vacaville's economic recovery of the '40s. A booklet from the company (above) promotes its products. The Reporter of Oct. 18, 1943, promoted the local fruit industry by urging residents to use envelopes with the two-bear and "Eat Vacaville Fruit" logo.

Milk helps man recall Vaca home

The world is shrinking in its immensity as far as distances are concerned, and it has all been brought about by the airplane. An interesting episode, of interest to Vacaville residents, follows:

Several days ago Mrs. Charlotte VerVaecke received a long distance telephone call from her husband, Clarence, who is in the service stationed "somewhere in the South Pacific." Clarence said: "Boy did I get homesick when I drank a bottle of fresh milk and happened to notice the stencil on the bottle: 'Vaca Valley Creamery, Vacaville, Cal.'"

It's a small world after all — fresh Vacaville milk, tasted by a Vacaville boy thousands of miles from home.

The Reporter
Dec. 31, 1943

Vaca Valley Creamery promoted its products and helped Vacaville's economy recover in the '40s.



SCHOOL-DAY ENERGY

There's health round the clock for the youngster who gets his daily quota of fresh Vaca Valley Creamery milk. At school, at play, in all of his winter activities, milk is his protector of health. Serve it to him at every meal, and in-between! Place a regular order with us today.

Pasteurized Grade A Milk—Qts.	17
Pasteurized and Homogenized—Qts.	17
Pastry Cream—1/2 pint	35
Table Cream—pint	35
Cottage Cheese—Pint	22
Ice Cream Special—Qt. Bricks	44
The ice cream with the deliciously different flavor. Try it and you'll like it.	

Vaca Valley
CREAMERY
VACAVILLE CALIF.

1940-1949

THE PAST CENTURY

Controlling THE FLOOD

Plans pour in for dam

By Don Harness
Staff Writer

Although Lake Berryessa's long-awaited Monticello Dam wasn't completed until 1957, the campaign really began to jell in the 1940s.

The decade opened with the formation of the Solano Water Council in November 1940.

And by June 1944, plans for a dam and irrigation system were getting serious.

One Reporter account that month describes about 50 people from Vacaville, Dixon, Davis, Woodland, Winters and the Monticello community, gathering in Winters.

They heard about proposed flood control projects from a War Department engineer, a topic of some interest as flood damage from Putah Creek cost \$39,000 annually.

Those attending that 1944 meeting from Vacaville, included Frank Douglass, Bernard Day, Homer Bolter and John Rico, Vacaville businessmen.

Throughout the decade, there were those against the concept. On March 2, 1945, The Reporter reported that Yolo County supervisors heard Walter Ward of the Clear Lake Water Co. oppose any plan for a Monticello Dam. He favored Indian Valley as the better site.

Two weeks later, in the March 16 Reporter edition, the Bureau of Reclamation had begun investigations into the merits of various potential area dam sites.

It wasn't until 1946 that Solano committees were ready to form an irrigation district.

Dixon's Bill Weyand, chairman of the Water Council, and Fairfield's Hugh Wren, chairman of the Monticello Dam "irrigation district," were speakers before the Vacaville Chamber of Commerce.

Petition signatures were being sought from farmers willing to pay a few cents per acre to defray expenses in forming an irrigation district.

The action really picked up in 1948. January saw the state of California approve studies examining "financing works for supplying water to, and distributing it in, the district."

A month later voters officially approved the district's formation.

By March 1948, Gov. Earl Warren was willing to have an emergency Solano County Project measure presented to Congress for the dam's construction.

In April, a Solano delegation returned from Washington, D.C., convinced a \$33 million Monticello dam project would become reality.

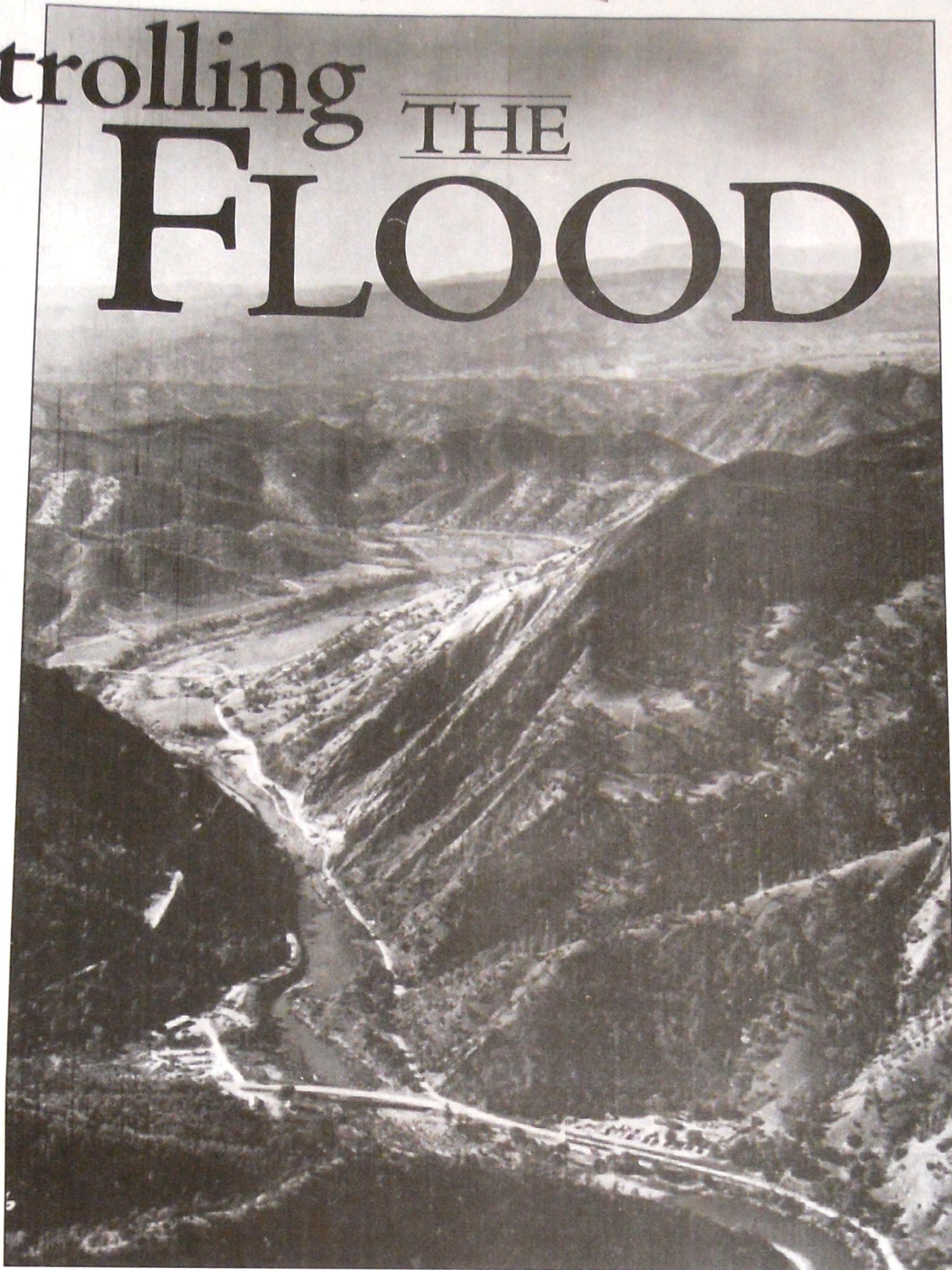
The year ended on a positive

note for dam supporters: The Secretary of Interior authorized Solano Project construction and notified President Harry Truman on Nov. 11, 1948.

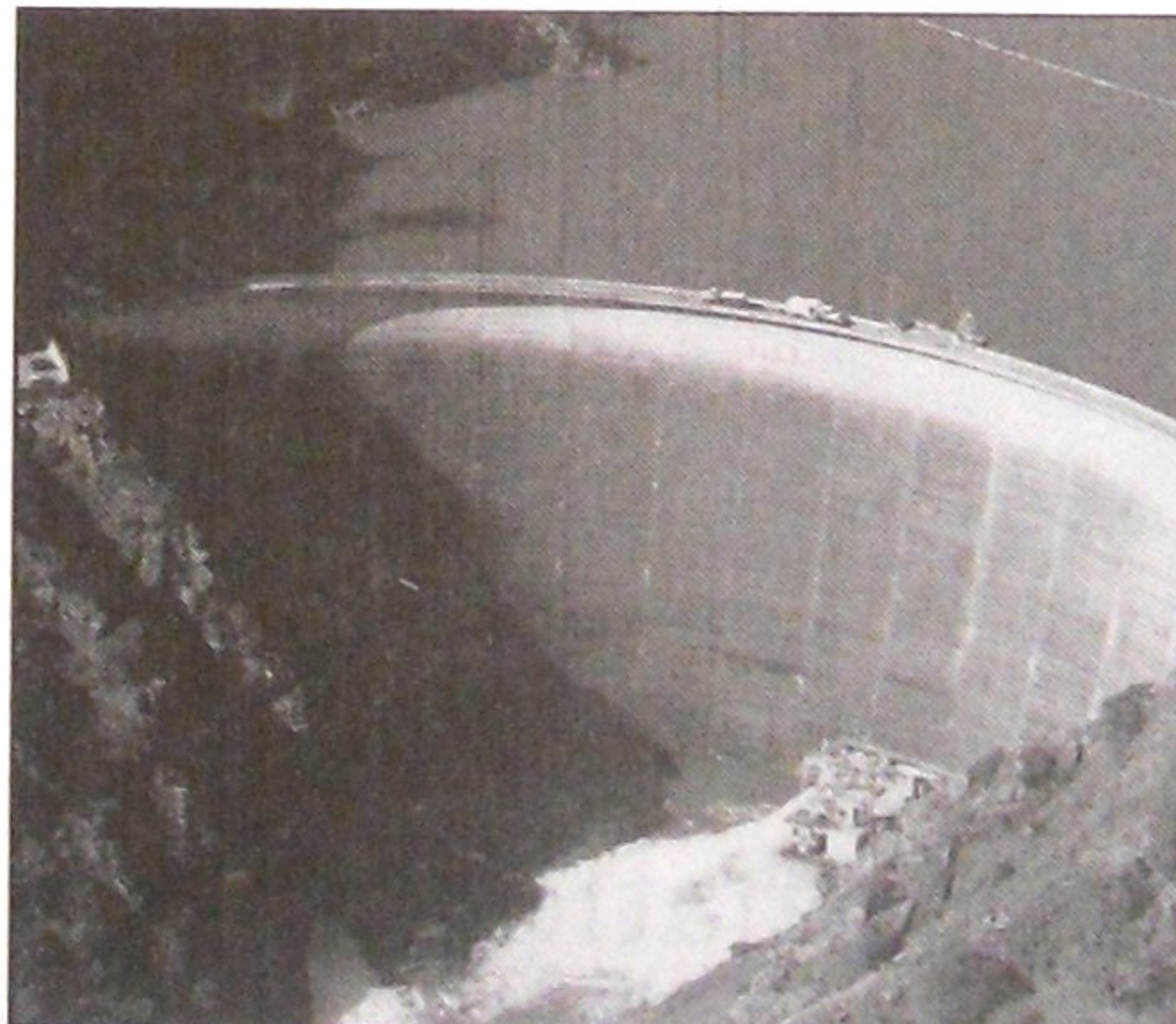
An April 1949 Reporter account described Truman urging immediate action to get construction underway as soon as possible.

Nevertheless, the overall struggle for the dam and irrigation system continued into the 1950s. Truman played a part with his "no new starts" directive to the Bureau of Reclamation against projects during the Korean War years.

The first water from Berryessa poured into the Vaughn Canal near Dixon on May 15, 1959.



Vacaville Museum



The aerial view of Devil's Gate (above) shows what the area looked before Monticello Dam was built. While it was not completed until the late 1950s, preparations began in the early '40s. Today (left), the dam at the base of Lake Berryessa holds back about 1.5 million acre feet of water. An acre foot of water supplies the average family of four with water for a year.

Reporter file photo

Prison hospital delayed

Cost now set at \$14 million

With the assertion that the state prison hospital proposed for Vacaville may get funds from the 1950-51 state budget, and that it is to be built, and perhaps on a larger scale than had previously been planned, Richard A. McGee, director of the Department of Corrections for the state of California, reassured a delegation representing the Vacaville Chamber of Commerce, which appeared before the director, that the eventual construction of the huge project will be realized. Those making the trip last Friday were President Walter Hansel, vice president Walter Weir and board members, John Rico and Delmar McCune, of the Vacaville Chamber.

McGee told the group the project is badly needed due to the overcrowding of penal facilities in the state. He said that by the time the local institution is started, its size may be increased to handle nearer 2,000 inmates, instead of the original 1100 as planned about a year ago. Its original cost was set at approximately \$7,000,000, but today's building costs have increased that figure to over \$14,000,000.

In Friday's discussion with the Vacaville group, McGee estimated the hospital, when completed, would necessitate a civilian personnel of nearly 500 to keep it in operation.

Among this group will be many men of the medical profession. It will be one of the few in the entire United States devoted to the type of correction for which purpose it is being built.

Warden Clinton Duffy of San Quentin prison, in a talk in Vacaville on Wednesday of last week, stated that the Vacaville hospital would be a receiving station for all male prisoners north of Tehachapi. They will be classified here and those with chronic illnesses will be treated here, while the rest will be sent to other prisons throughout the state.

The Reporter
Jan. 28, 1949

Big day set for hunters

Hunters Attention! Do not forget the bluejay hunt to be held on Sunday, March 3d.

Here is a good chance for all hunters to prove they are as good shots as they claim to be. In addition to shooting bluejays, the following birds and animals are to be included:

Butcher birds, crows, jack rabbits, hawks and ground squirrels.

For every bluejay shot 20 points will be counted, butcher bird 20, crow 50, hawk 20, jack rabbit 5 and ground squirrel 5.

As evidence of your good shooting you must present to the judges the left wing tip of bluejays, butcher birds, crows and hawks, and for rabbits and ground squirrels you must present the tails.

For hunters over eighteen the entry fee is 25 cents, and for those under eighteen no fee is necessary. There will be three cash prizes to be given to the highest three in number of points. No cats are to be killed and no shooting is to be done on signed property without the permit of the owner.

The hunters will start at 9 o'clock a.m. from Beelard & Burton's and they are to report at the same place at 5 p.m. on the same day.

This is the time to show that you have not been bragging about your good shooting. Register now with Alfred Escano at the Solano County Grocery.

This hunt is under the auspices of the Vacaville Game Conservation Club.

The Reporter
Feb. 16, 1949

NUT TREE A HUB OF ACTIVITY

Floral shop opens doors

The new Nut Tree floral shop will have its grand opening on Saturday.

The Nut Tree has been Vacaville's florist for 19 years and will now have a shop equal to the best in Northern California.

The new shop is constructed of adobe on the style of "Old California." Vacaville is invited to inspect the new shop, and ordenias will be given away on Saturday and Sunday to all lady visitors.

The Reporter
March 26, 1948

NUT TREE

FLOWERS FOR ALL OCCASIONS

CORSAGES

Flowers Telegraphed Anywhere

Vacaville 210-F-4

This ad from the Jan. 24, 1947, edition of The Reporter notes the Nut Tree floral shop had flowers for all occasions. A new shop opened nearly a year later.

The Reporter
Sept. 16, 1949

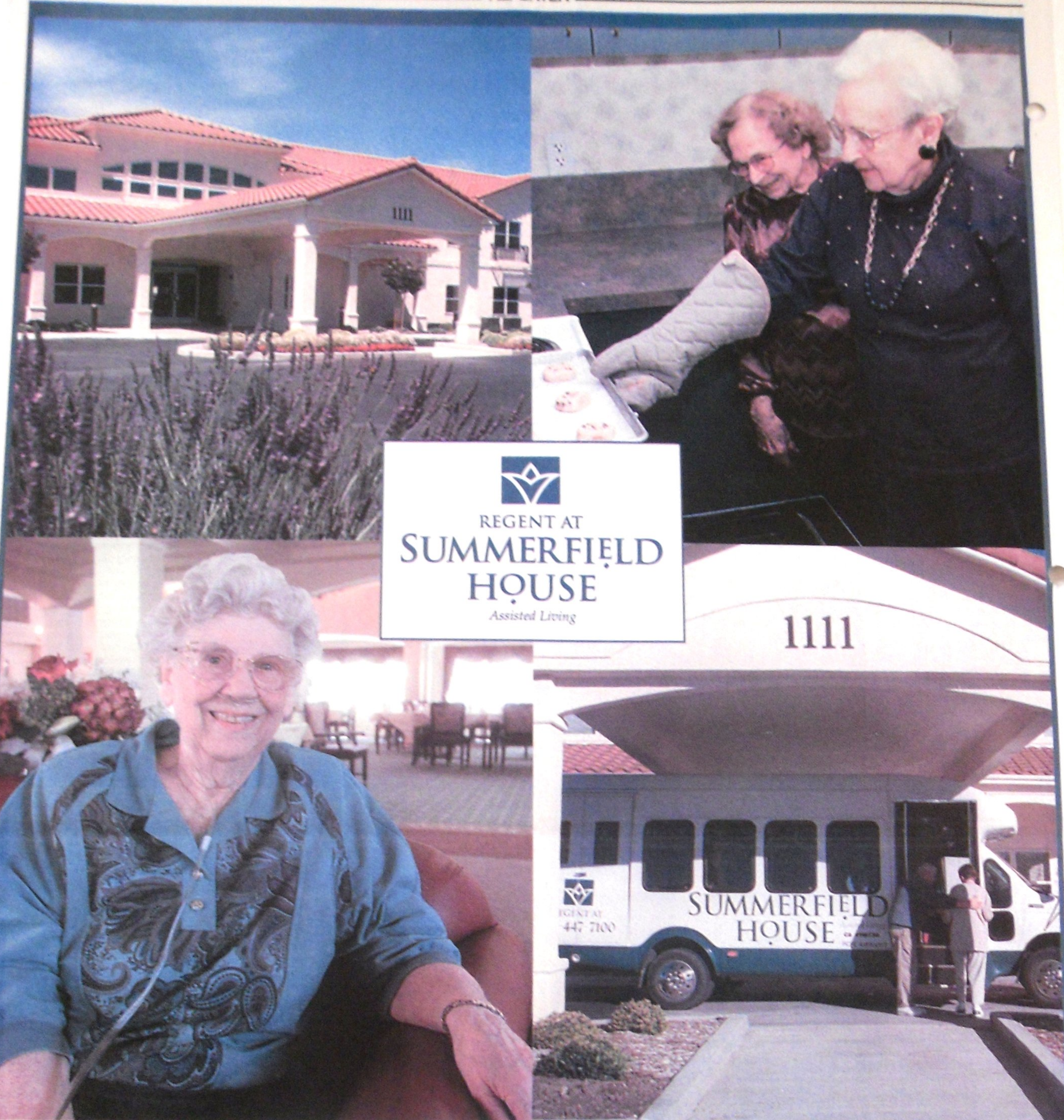
Crosby eats at Nut Tree

Crooner Bing Crosby, on his way to his home in Pebble Beach yesterday (Thursday) shortly before noon stopped in for lunch at the Nut Tree. One of the hostesses, apparently pleased by his presence, described him as "one of the nicest persons to wait on" and he seemed to be happy about the place. As his two traveling companions waited, Crosby signed autographs for the guests.

According to the Nut Tree staff at least one vote goes to the "Groaner" as the "man I would most gladly wait on." No one revealed the size of the tip.

Commentator Fulton Lewis, Jr., was a patron earlier this week.

The Reporter
Feb. 16, 1949




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1940-1949

THE PAST CENTURY

Fighting the fight against polio

Vacans urged to be generous

If you have not as yet availed yourself of the opportunity of contributing to the March of Dimes campaign, do so today as the time for the drive is rapidly coming to an end. It is hoped that Vacaville and Elmira may be able to raise at least \$1,000 for this worthy cause, and Chairman James R. McCrory states that anyone wishing to make contributions through the mails can do so, addressing the envelope to him at Vacaville.

In 1945 the Solano County Chapter of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, spent more than \$10,000 providing for medical, hospital, nursing and physical therapy service for infantile paralysis victims in the country. There were 38 cases of poliomyelitis in the county last year and most of these victims have been benefited by results of funds raised in the last year's campaign.

The children of the Vacaville grammar school are doing a good job of soliciting funds and up to press time yesterday approximately \$275 had been collected by the youngsters.

Let your conscience be your guide. Contribute generously.

The Reporter
Jan. 25, 1946



A front-page cartoon in the Jan. 25, 1946, edition of The Reporter urged Vacans to fight against infantile paralysis and poliomyelitis, or polio. A story also appeared on the front page.

TB X-ray results released to public; 26 to see doctor

Readings on the 454 miniature x-ray films taken here on Jan. 14 have been completed by the chest consultant of the Solano County Tuberculosis Association it was announced yesterday and everyone should have a report within the next few days.

Of the 454 persons x-rayed 45 persons were found to have suspicious findings. Twenty-six of these have shadows characteristic of possible pulmonary tuberculosis and have been advised to see their physician for further study and medical advice. Five persons were found to be suffering from a possible heart condition and 100 showed other

pathology in their chests.

All will be followed through by the Tuberculosis Association or the family physician.

Prior to the x-ray survey an intensive health education program was conducted in this area. A film on tuberculosis entitled "Target TB" was seen by hundreds of local residents as well as student groups.

Assisting with this annual x-ray service, made possible by the sale of Christmas Seals, were Miss Minnie Calkins, Mrs. Charlotte Ehling, Carroll Mundy, L.E. Williams, Kenneth Glines, Dom Isabella, A.M. Jeppesen, Mrs. A. Dietz and Mrs. A. Johnson.

The Reporter
Feb. 1, 1946

Cigarette drive for Gl's

The city council on Tuesday evening authorized the Rago-Christopher Post of the American Legion to designate today (Friday) as Cigarette Tag Day in Vacaville. The local post of the Legion, through the national organization, is collecting money to be used for the purchase of cigarettes for the men overseas.

One package of cigarettes will be sent overseas for every five cents contributed.

Cardboard containers have been placed in several of the local business houses for the convenience of persons who wish to contribute to this worthy cause.

The Reporter
Sept. 10, 1943

TV may be here soon


Associated Broadcasters, Inc., have filed with the Federal Communication Commission an application for permission to operate a commercial television station in San Francisco, which will be stationed on top of the Mark Hopkins Hotel. Vacaville will be within receiving range

for the television pictures.

If the application is approved, it was announced, the station will be set up and placed in operation as soon as necessary equipment becomes available.

The Reporter
May 12, 1944

A PART OF HISTORY



Vaca Hills Chapel
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
caring since 1967

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The Responsibility is Ours."*

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FD-1297

Stylish Women's Fashions

We offer personal, courteous service with a smile and prices that will put a smile on your face.

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The Double Jacket

Brown and white sharkskin suit for Spring excitement.
1945



UPTOWN FASHIONS



431 Main St., Downtown Vacaville • 707/452-1114

Tues. - Fri., 10-6 • Sat., 10-5 • Evenings by appointment



"Best-known firearm in the United States, Canada, Mexico and many other European Countries"

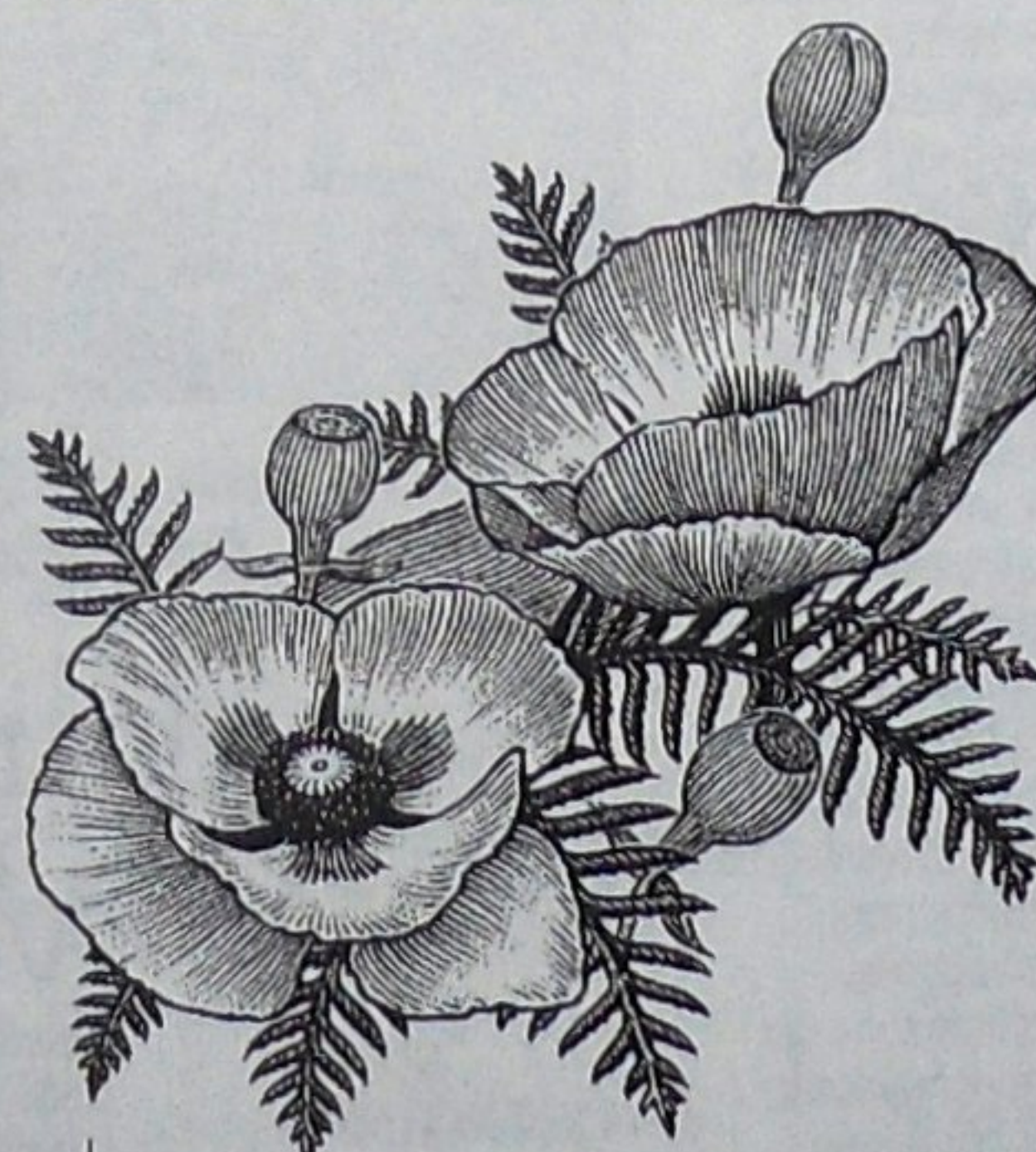
Sam Colt was recognized as one of the earliest American manufacturers in the gun industry. In the mid 19th Century the metal parts of the revolver were designer, molded, stamped with a serial number and exquisitely engraved and inlaid with gold.



GUNS & GEAR

860 Alamo Drive (In Alamo Plaza)
(707) 451-1199

Hours: Tues., 12-7, Wed.-Fri., 10-6, Sat., 9-5



Gifts in good taste

• Unique Gifts

• Gourmet Foods

• Custom Gift Baskets

For Any Occasion

Vaca Valley Mercantile

354 Merchant St. 446-6333

War alone not cause of juvenile crime wave

The headlines reading "juvenile crime" are a war phobia. If you reduce the words to a common denominator, you will find parents below the line and degrees of neglect above it. Home is the strongest factor in preserving balance, naturalness and security in children's lives. With father off in the Army or Navy and mother in a war plant, there is no one at home.

If you are fourteen or fifteen and know you can come home every night to a happy house, warm greetings, and a filled cookie jar, you are not very liable to burst the bonds of security and grow alley-cat ways.

From Britain come reports that the girls are hardest to hold in check. The most natural thing in life is for boys and girls to seek each other's company. But in England, as elsewhere, few boys are free of war duty, so girls have no companionship. The need of boys and girls for each other should be satisfied against the background of each other's homes. Otherwise, the outlets will be found in vice and crime.

Too few mothers give really single-hearted attention to the needs the youngsters growing up around them. Too many fathers say, with a weary gesture when night comes, "Sorry, son, but I've got to figure out the tax."

Why not, in these hours of national trial, arrange to see that the young folks are entertained in secure and healthful ways? Why can't men's luncheon clubs and women's book review clubs take up the problem of delinquent youngsters in the community, find out what's wrong, and spend a little time and money righting it?

It isn't the war alone that makes juvenile crime, although that brings much evil to the surface. It's the older folks' selfishness coming home to roost. "A cup of cold water" is all the youngsters ask. Why don't we give it to them.

Editorial, *The Reporter*
June 4, 1943

Grateful return of favor

Many Vacaville friends of Mrs. Margaret Buck Putnam will read with interest the following story printed in Wednesday's San Francisco Chronicle:

It took nearly twenty blood transfusions to cure Representative Frank H. Buck's daughter of staphylococcus septicemia, a rare blood disease, eight years ago.

Yesterday this grateful woman, now Mrs. Margaret Putnam, eight-months bide of 424 Perkins street, Oakland, went to Peralta Hospital in that city was told her blood would probably make a satisfactory serum to treat another victim.

She had read newspaper accounts of the plight of Sheldon Bellafsky, 12, of Chicago, in danger of death from the same disease. Late yesterday she was waiting a reply to her wire to the Chicago hospital, offering her blood.

Meanwhile blood donated by Father Meinecke, assistant pastor of St. Boniface Church in San Francisco, reached Chicago by plane. He is only six weeks out of the hospital after a severe siege of the disease. His blood may be used, Dr. Stephen Manheimer, superintendent of the Chicago hospital said.

Alameda county hospital authorities say they have three cases of staphylococcus septicemia in children, one of whom has been practically cured through 15 transfusions of blood donated by St. Mary's College students.

The Reporter
March 22, 1940



Firefighters battled the early morning fire in the Crystal building for hours before bringing it under control, according to the Jan. 23, 1942, edition of *The Reporter*. At left, firefighting equipment from 1944 was displayed outside the Fire Department on Main Street.

Reporter
file photo

\$30,000 fire

California Market, Collier's, Bowling Alleys burn

A disastrous fire, believed to have started in the Bowling Alleys in the Crystal building, baffled firemen for nearly five hours early this morning and was finally brought under control about eight o'clock. The fire alarm was sounded at 3:30 by Night-watchman "Big Boy" Davidson, who first noticed smoke in the bowling alley building.

If was nearly an hour before the firemen were able to get directly at the flames which had been smoldering in the attic of the building occupied by the bowling alleys and Collier's. Lack of fire walls in the big building caused the flames to spread across the entire Crystal building, and the California Market, for a time thought safe, was soon engulfed in flames.

The rear of the big building collapsed as supports gave way, making it hazardous for firemen to venture into the building. Streams of water were played on the roof from windows of the nearby Firemen's hall, and both engines pumped to capacity, throwing thousands

of gallons of water on the structure.

Owners Joe Codina and Frank Lornezo were on the scene promptly, and save most of their expensive office equipment. Aubrey Collier rushed over from Dixon, but he was unable to get into his store due to the amount of smoke. The rear end of Collier's was a mass of flames and at places the fire burned through the floor. The flames kept working to the front of the building between the roof and ceiling, making it impossible to extinguish. Much of the stock in Collier's was untouched by fire, but water damage will be high, as the hardware will soon rust.

Groceries and canned goods in the California Market tumbled to the floor as supports gave way, and some of the lighter articles floated out of the front door on the heavy stream of water that was poured into the building.

The bowling alleys, scheduled to open tonight after being closed for several months, presented a devastating appearance. Falling embers from the roof burned over a large portion of the newly

polished and painted alleys. The alleys are the property of Ellwood Mitchell, and he had made arrangements to lease or sell them to five local men if they proved successful in their venture. The five young men are Angelo Anzuar, Angelo Gonzales, George Ortega, Eddie Fernandez and Fran Aguerro.

The loss at California Market will run nearly \$10,000, partly covered by insurance. Mitchell estimates his loss at \$1,000, with no insurance. Collier's loss will run to several thousand dollars, partly covered by insurance, and the biggest loser is Carl Crystal, owner of the building. His loss will run about \$10,000. The entire roof of the buig building must be replaced, portions of the floor and partitions. Practically all that can be salvaged is the brick shell of the building. Fortunately the large plate glass windows are intact.

The refrigeration cases in the California Market were not touched by flames, but are badly discolored from smoke. These items cost thousands of dollars.

A steady rain fell during the entire

time the fire was in progress and firemen became human sponges.

Hot coffee was brought to the firemen by Mrs. Harold Hawk and Mrs. Henry Mohr.

Despite the seriousness of the blaze no serious injuries were sustained by firemen. Chief Joe Libonati received a gash over the right eye when he was hit by a metal bar, and Assistant Chief Lou Roulund sprained an ankle.

Aubrey Collier has already made plans to move his salvaged stock into the building next to the reporter office. This is the second time that he has been burned out in the past 31 months. He suffered heavy loss when the Masonic Temple in which his store was located was destroyed by fire on May 17, 1939.

It is too early to get any definite future plans from owners of the California Market, but without doubt they will re-open as soon as quarters are available. Since their opening here on Oct. 27, 1939, they have enjoyed an increasing patronage.

The Reporter
Jan. 23, 1942

Mail to be delivered to the home

The efforts of many months to bring mail carrier service to Vacaville will be realized on April 16, when three local postmen will begin house-to-house delivery. Announcement of the new service was made this week by Harry M. Talbot, local postmaster, following a communication from the First Assistant Postmaster General in Washington, D.C.

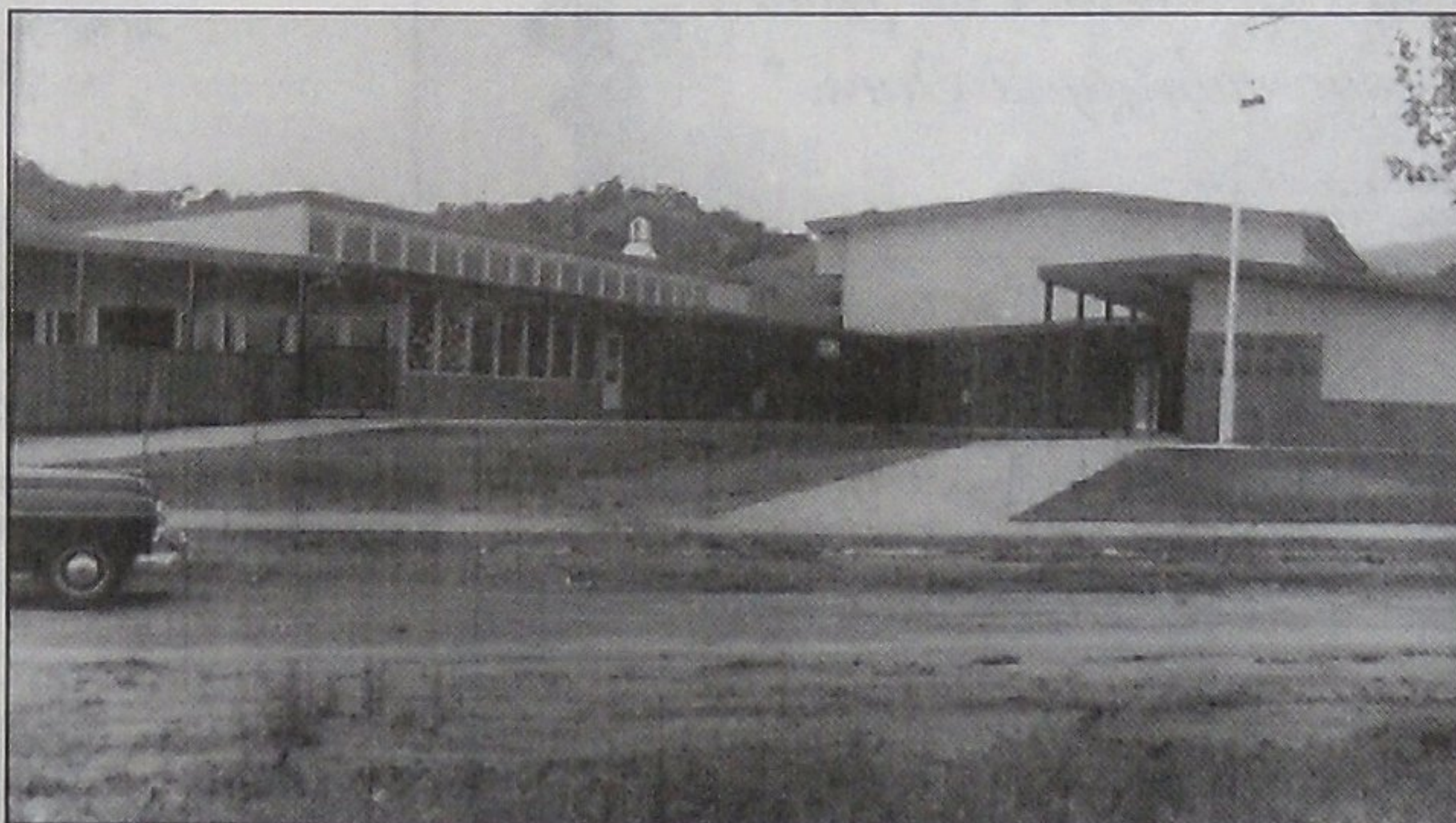
The three carriers, probably local ex-G.I.'s, on that date will begin delivery twice daily on week days, once on Saturday, with no carrier service on Sundays or holidays.

Postmaster Talbot added that form letters will be sent to every person receiving mail now on how best to cooperate with the local postal service on the transition. He has appealed to everyone to obtain house numbers immediately. This will be necessary whether or not boxes are retained at the post office building.

Vaca Valley Village will be the only district in the community not receiving carrier service. However, it has been included in a new request, and service will be available there within a short time.

Present box holders may retain their boxes for continuance of the present service. Others who wish carrier service are requested to notify business firms, and those from whom they expect mail, of their change to street addresses before the set delivery date.

The Reporter
April 2, 1948



Vacaville Heritage Council

Elm school was built after a successful bond election. It was Vacaville's first modern elementary school. Kindergarten through fifth-grade attended the school when it opened.

New Elm school dedicated

City's first modern school

Vacaville turned out yesterday in large numbers to accept its newest public building. The occasion was the dedication of the new \$283,000 Elm school plant which Vacaville has been sorely in need of for many years.

In impressive ceremonies, including the presentation and acceptance of the school, classroom doors were thrown open for public inspection amid unanimous acclaim that the school is one of the finest of its kind. On Monday the first classes for kindergarten and the first five

grades will begin studies in new surroundings.

Initial construction of the new plant began last year after district residents had voted a bond issue of \$112,000, to which was added sizable grants necessary for completion. Only the sixth, seventh and eighth grades will remain at the Ulatis school building, which will also contain the administration offices and the school auditorium. From all indications the old school building will be torn down within several weeks.

The Reporter
April 29, 1949

Dial phones in service within days

Vacaville's new dial telephone system will go into operation Saturday night, December 27 at 11:30 o'clock, according to E.M. Tucker, manager for the company here.

At that hour the system which has served telephone users here for many years will be replaced by the dials. Tucker said the actual changeover will take only a few minutes and will be done with a minimum of inconvenience.

With the inauguration of dial service, the following suggestions are offered by Tucker:

Before dialing a Vacaville number, first obtain from the new telephone directory the correct number of the person to be called. This is important, Tucker explained, as all Vacaville telephone numbers have been changed, and the new numbers appear only in the new directory.

Tucker said that the new equipment has ample capacity to handle the normal flow of calls with sufficient margin for reserve. He added, however, that an abnormally large volume of calls made through "curiosity" might cause overloading of the equipment and suggested that this be kept in mind during the first day or two in order not to delay important emergency calls.

Tucker also said that the work of removing the old telephones on customers' premises would get under way next week.

The Reporter
Dec. 19, 1947

1940-1949

THE PAST CENTURY

The lowest price
for General Motors'
latest and greatest style success!



Streamliner Six Sedan Coupe \$923* (white sidewall tires optional at extra cost)



YES, PONTIAC HAS DONE IT AGAIN AND SET THE STYLE OF THE YEAR!

Originated by General Motors, it's offered by Pontiac in the Streamliner "Torpedo" at its lowest price. Here is a long, low, sleekly modern car with distinctive Silver Streak front end and richly appointed, spacious body by Fisher. Here is a car with performance as outstanding as its appearance—fast on getaway... smooth on cruising...

dependable through the years... and it's as economical as many smaller cars. Why not stop in at your Pontiac dealer's today and inspect the style sensation of 1941? It is available either as a six or an eight for only twenty-five dollars difference.

'923 *Delivered at Pontiac, Michigan. State tax, optional equipment and accessories—extra. Prices subject to change without notice.

Pontiac

Only \$25 more for an Eight in any model! **THE FINE CAR WITH THE LOW PRICE.**

D. A. MOWERS
MERCHANT AND DOBBINS STS.
VACAVILLE, CALIF.

STILL on the MOVE

Traveling east for new car

A party of Vacaville people, composed of Mrs. Ida Meldrum, George Kirbyson and his father, Richard Kirbyson, left Vacaville Sunday morning in Mrs. Meldrum's car bound for Springfield, Missouri. Mrs. Meldrum will remain in Missouri for about six months visiting relatives and George Kirbyson and his father will go to Pontiac, Michigan, where George will take delivery of a new deluxe Pontiac sedan, and will drive it back to Vacaville. The car was purchased through D.A. Mowers, Vacaville Pontiac distributor.

The Reporter
June 6, 1941

Clearance Sale On All

USED CARS

Look at These Prices

1941 Pontiac Four Door Hard Top Mech. Act. \$1095 \$365 dn.	1939 Chevrolet 4-Door Sedan Radio, Buck \$595 \$195 dn.
1941 NASH 4-DOOR SEDAN—A Beauty This Car Must Be Seen—(\$285 Down) \$895.00	
1941 Plymouth 4-Door Sedan New Paint Reconditioned \$995 \$332 dn.	1939 Plymouth COUPE Engine, Body Overhauled \$545 \$182 dn.

10 Orders to Choose From
1/3 DOWN
BANK BALANCE

WALTER C. HANSEL

337 Merchant Street

Vacaville

Vacans continued to prove they were on the move when it came to the automobile. Those are not down payments listed in ads from The Reporter of Nov. 22, 1940 (above), and March 4, 1949 (left). Those are the total prices.

Strikers follow, mistreat truck driver

Irvin P. Nelson, 25 and Gus Natrieri 23 of Petaluma, and Frank Mariano, 18 of Bodega ran into trouble Tuesday morning when they arrived in Vacaville. They were following a truck and trailer on the way from Petaluma to Woodland for a load of barley. The outfit is owned by the Petaluma Milling Company and was driven by Del Dunton. It appears to have resulted from a labor union scrap in the chicken capital of California. Before reaching this city the three men, who had followed Dunton from Petaluma, made several attempts to stop him and get in the truck cab, and in one effort had pulled off the left leg of his trousers.

Reaching Vacaville, Dunton stopped at the Owl auto camp and was followed onto the grounds by the three hoodlums, who still continued to threaten him. He called up Chief of Police Alley, who visited the auto camp, but found the men had gone. Suspecting they would lay in wait for Dunton, Alley drove out Sacramento street, where he noticed a car parked opposite Brown street with three men about it. He ordered them to drive down on Main street and a call was put in to Petaluma. The police there knew about the trouble, but Petaluma being a strong union city, they did not appear to care to handle the matter, saying it resulted from the

truck driver refusing to be forced into the union.

Alley then called upon the sheriff of Sonoma county, who stated that warrants would be issued for the arrest of the three men.

In his talk with the men they told Alley they were members of the Warehouse Truckers Union, but they had no cards to prove that they belonged to the organization. The secretary of the Petaluma union told Alley over the phone that they belonged to the union, and was inclined to be quite belligerent.

The Reporter
Oct. 4, 1940

Trucker's tale strange enough to beat Ripley's

We've read Robert Ripley's "Believe It Or Not" for many years, but have found few of his oddities which compare to one which occurred right here near Vacaville. It all happened like this:

On Monday evening a large truck pulled on to the McCune Estate ranch near Dixon to pick up a load of canning tomatoes which are being grown on the ranch by C.M. Hartley and Sinclair Dobbins of Vacaville. After the truck was loaded it became stuck in the wet ground. The truck driver proceeded to get Hartley's Caterpillar 30 tractor and hooked it to the rear of the truck in an attempt to free it from the mud. This did not work, so he went to a nearby ranch and solicited the aid of a more powerful diesel tractor, which he hooked on to the front end of the truck and which was able to pull the truck free from the mud. The tractor in the front of the truck was unhitched and

the truck driver proceeded on his way with his load of tomatoes to be delivered to the cannery at Walnut Creek. Arriving at Webb's Motor Inn near Vacaville the truck driver stopped, presumably for a bite to eat and to his amazement, there attached to the rear of his truck with a chain was Hartley's tractor. He had dragged the heavy tractor for nearly fifteen miles, backwards, down highway 40 around midnight. He had failed to unhook it from his truck at the tomato field.

This sounds unbelievable, but it happened, and the imprints of the tractor tracks are visible on highway 40. The tractor was not damaged in any way.

The name of the driver is not known, but already truck drivers up and down the coast are amusingly telling the story which happens once in a lifetime.

The Reporter
Nov. 9, 1945

Merchants seeking removal of meters from city streets

Mounting opposition to the presence of parking meters in Vacaville was expressed in a petition signed by fifty-eight local merchants requesting their removal. The petition was presented by a group of merchants to the members of the city council when it met in regular session on Tuesday.

The council explained to the merchants supporting the petition that in preparing the yearly budget the revenue from the meters had been figured and considered and that it would be necessary to replace the revenue through other means. (Approximately 110 meters were installed in May of this year and their total

average weekly take has been \$150).

A member of the delegation present in protest to the meters volunteered to contact the merchants who are paying a license to the city and endeavor to secure their signatures to a statement showing their willingness to have their business licenses increased 50 percent in order to replace the meter revenue.

The council instructed the city clerk to furnish J.R. Strauman with a list of the merchants paying business licenses to the city.

The Reporter
Oct. 21, 1949

Vehicles pass through at 11,602 in single day

Mr. and Mrs. William Boll, who twice a year take a traffic census on Highway 40 for the Department of Motor Vehicles, have completed a two-day count and have made the figures available to The Reporter which shows the amount of traffic going through Vacaville. The traffic census was taken between the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. and for Sunday, July 14, the following count was made:

California passenger cars 10,068
Foreign passenger cars 799

Buses 132
Pickups 261
Freight veh. — 2 to 6 axles 342
Total 11,602

For Monday, July 15th, the count was as follows:

California passenger cars 7,048
Foreign passenger cars 695
Buses 116
Pickups 280
Freight veh. — 2 to 6 axles 1,058
Total 9,197

The Reporter
July 19, 1946

City gets another airport

Robert Hudson, recently of San Mateo, has opened Hudson's Air Park about two miles south of Vacaville on highway 40 and is now prepared to give rides, instructions and other services connected with flying. He has been flying since 1938 and before coming to Vacaville operated a service out of the Bay Meadows race track airport.

Hudson plans to install hangars and repair shops at this new field. He has three planes, two of them only a few days old. He will also seek to qualify his field as an authorized GI training program base.

The Reporter
Jan. 31, 1947

Aviation club buys plane

The Vacaville Flyers Club held its regular meeting on Monday. Members reported they are happy over the fact they are now the sole owners of the Cessna 140, the plane often seen circling this area.

The club is anxious to receive new members. The only qualification necessary for membership is

that the person wishing to join must possess a private pilot's license.

The club is sponsoring a balloon-busting and paper-cutting contest, to be held at the Vacaville-Dixon airport. The date will be announced later.

The Reporter
Sept. 17, 1948

Parents urged to use influence with their boys

At the meeting Tuesday of the City Council complaint was made that boys are allowed to congregate on the streets and in front of stores and wrestle and otherwise make themselves a nuisance. No action was taken, but the matter was left up to the police department to curb this evil. Chief of Police Alley has formulated a letter to parents and guardians asking their co-operation in an effort to stop this practice. The letter follows:

To the Parents and Guardians of the Boys of Vacaville — We need your help and co-operation in correcting a situation existing in Vacaville, as it does in practically all other cities. The boys under 21 years of age are permitted to roam the streets at late hours, which is one of the best ways for a boy to get into trouble. Within the recent months there has been an epidemic of malicious mischief and petty thievery at night time. During the day time these boys are congregating in groups on the streets, interfering with the free use of the side-

walks, making remarks and in other ways doing things bordering on hoodlumism. City Ordinance 255 makes it unlawful for two or more persons to obstruct the sidewalks or streets or to hold public meetings thereon.

We know that the youth problem is the most important and far-reaching problem of today, but if the parents would assume the responsibility which just belongs to them, this problem would not exist. We are hoping by calling the attention of the parents to this matter that will secure their wholehearted co-operation in this vital movement.

Vacaville has a curfew law and the chief, together with Officers Peters and Brazelton, is going to strictly enforce this curfew law. We have no desire to be unreasonable, and boys and girls going to or from a meeting, theatre or visiting with friends will not be interfered with in any way by the officers, but we do intend to crack down on the young hoodlums.

The Reporter
March 8, 1940

Officer stops pair in daring escape

Telephone calls poured into Sheriff Thornton's office Tuesday evening and excited voices informed the officers that there was a riot on highway 40 where it intersects Davis street, Vacaville. Two Knights Landing men, drunk and disorderly in their automobile, had been picked up by Traffic Officer Harper near the Big Trees, and the officer was taking them to the county jail in their machine. When they reached Davis street one of the men managed to extract Harper's gun from the holster and held its muzzle against the officer's side, demanding that he let them go. Harper did not think this was a good idea and he grasped the gun in such a way that the flesh on his hand between the thumb and first finger rested between the firing pin and the hammer. But for his quick move he was in great danger of losing his life. Harper felt the hammer of the gun click into the flesh of his hand but the hammer never reached the firing pin that would have sent a

bullet into the stomach. In another moment Harper swung around and hit his assailant, Elic Ramsey, under the jaw. By this time the machine was out of control but by expert maneuvering the traffic officer brought it under control.

The men arrested were Elic Ramsey, the driver, David Ramsey, his brother, and Robert Bartlett, a hitch-hiker.

Officers began to arrive from all quarters and after a hot fight the men were subdued and taken to jail. Deputy Sheriffs Oliver and Bud Peters were among those who responded and took part in the fight.

Chief of Police O.E. Alley and Nightwatchman Frank Fadley also appeared at the scene of the trouble.

Elic Ramsey was booked at the county jail on charges of drunk driving, resisting an officer and assault with a deadly weapon.

The Reporter
July 11, 1941

Story of a ring lost 55 years in Vacaville

Under a Vacaville date line the following story of a lost ring has been published in a number of neighboring papers.

In 1880, James Miller, a local druggist, now retired, purchased a gold ring on which he had engraved the date and his initials.

In the early '80's he presented it to a young girl who later became Mrs. Miller, but before their marriage in 1885 the ring was lost.

Recently Joe Rositano was working in the yard of the old Miller home when he saw something bright shining in the dirt and on investigation he saw it was a ring. Being uncertain as to its

value he took it to a local jeweler who recognized the initials. The jeweler communicated with Miller, who identified the ring which he had purchased 60 years ago and which had been lost for more than 55 years.

The ring is in good condition, notwithstanding the fact the land has been cultivated for many of the years it has lain there. Outside of a roughening of the edges in spots the ring gave no evidence of much change since it adorned the finger of a girl in the early '80's.

The Reporter
May 9, 1941

BARD DIES AFTER ILLNESS

Markham's youth spent here

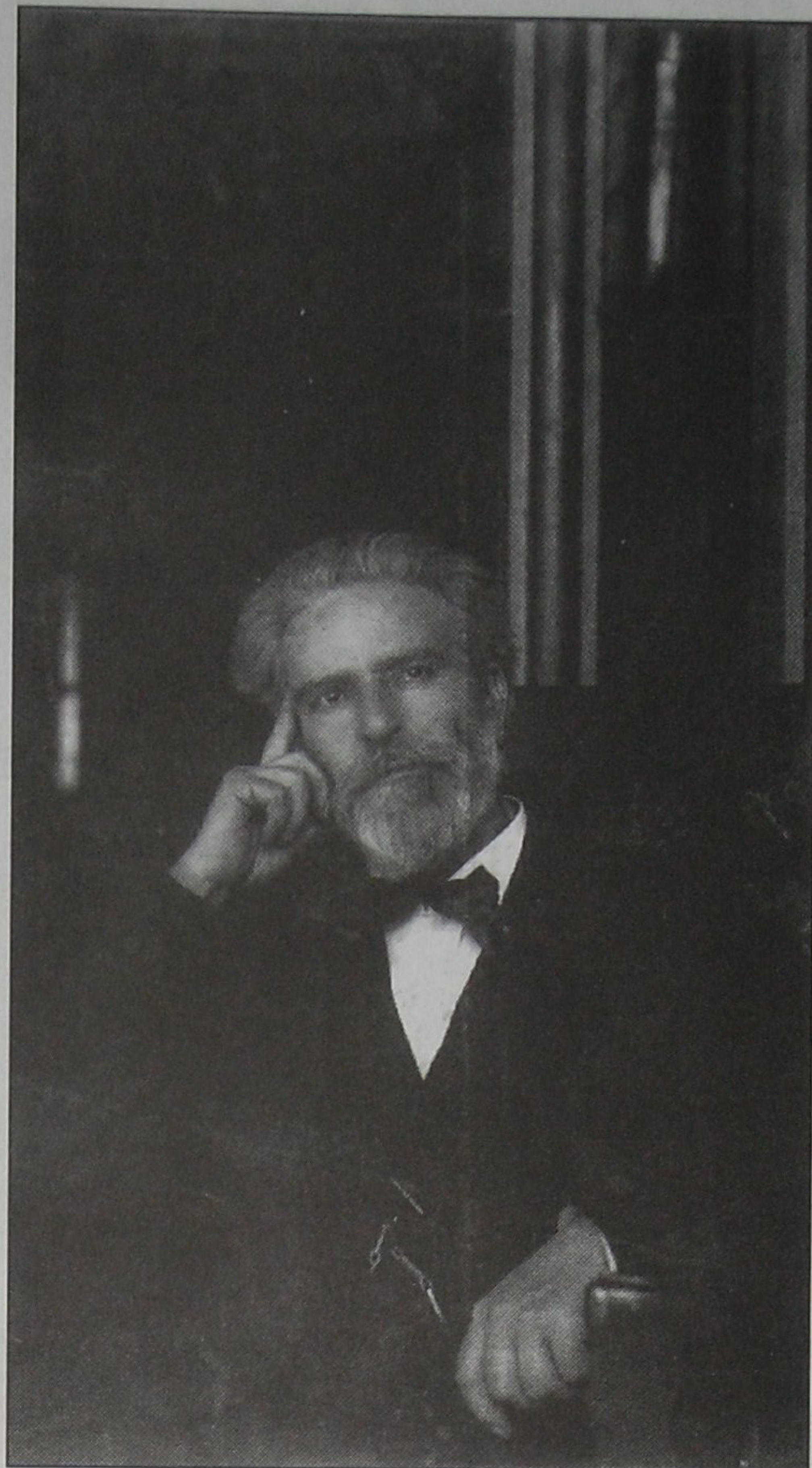
Edwin Markham, a poet widely known for his poem "The Man with the Hoe," written in 1898, died at his home on Staten Island, N.Y., Thursday night of last week. He was 87 years of age. Early last week he caught a severe cold from which he failed to recover.

When a lad of 7 he came with his mother from Oregon, where he was born, and they settled on a ranch in Lagoon Valley, near Vacaville. He attended school in Vacaville and Suisun and worked as a sheepherder on his mother's ranch. The Markham ranch was sold in 1875 to William Radcliffe for \$1,000, and is now owned by his daughter, Mrs. Mabel Radcliffe Dykes.

"The Man with the Hoe" is said to have been the most profitable poem ever written. It earned more than \$250,000 for Markham and had been translated into almost forty languages.

He is survived by a son, Virgil. Press dispatches say the body will be brought to California for burial.

The Reporter
March 15, 1940



Edwin Markham, a poet of some note who wrote "The Man with the Hoe," died in 1940. Markham spent his youth living in Lagoon Valley near Vacaville and attended Vacaville and Suisun schools.

Vacaville Museum

Huggard to mark 106th year

Mrs. Mary Jane Huggard, Vacaville's Grand Old Lady and one of the state's oldest residents, on Sunday will celebrate her 106th birthday.

Her children, grandchildren and friends will gather at the home of her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Bert S. Cresswell, to do honor to one whom all respect.

For the past 30 years she has made her home with the Cresswells. She is the mother of 11 children, three of whom are still living — Mrs. Cresswell of Vacaville, Mrs. Jane Jorgenson of San Francisco and Mrs. Charles Davis of Oakland.

Mrs. Huggard still does her share of the work around the Cresswell home despite her remarkable age. Her eyesight was impaired years ago by a stroke of lightning.

She was born in Caherciveen, County Kerry, Ireland, in December 1836, and came to America in 1870. After spending five years in Massachusetts the family went to Colorado, where her husband worked in the mines. He died in 1910. Shortly after she came to California, making her home with her daughter, Mrs. Jorgenson, at Marysville, until coming to the Cresswell home 30 years ago.

The Reporter
Dec. 4, 1942

DEATH CLAIMS E. C. ANDREWS; VETERAN NEWSPAPER PUBLISHER



The picture above was taken the day the Aircraft Warning Service Post was closed in Vacaville. Mr. Andrews was one of the faithful "spotters," and was the last person on duty at the post.

Death on Wednesday noon came to one of Vacaville's grandest "old gents" in the passing of Edward Cleveland Andrews, 81, at the East Oakland Hos-

The photo and story (above) appeared in The Reporter of Nov. 29, 1946, following the death of C.E. "Andy" Andrews.

Veteran publisher succumbs

Death on Wednesday noon came to one of Vacaville's grandest "old gents" in the passing of Edward Cleveland Andrews, 81, at the East Oakland Hospital after an illness of several months.

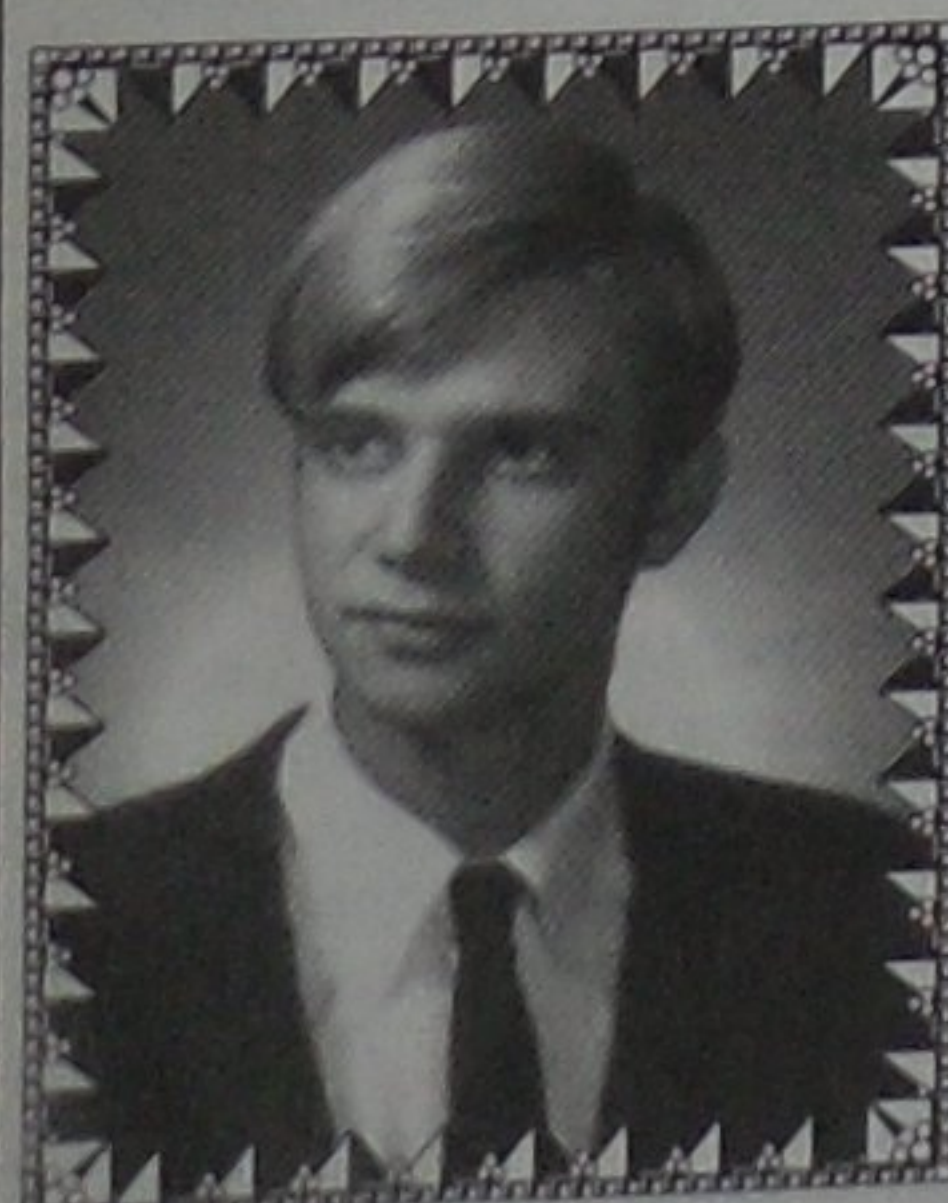
"Andy," as he was known to his many friends, had resided in Vacaville since 1904, coming here to enter into partnership with the late C.L. Adsit in publishing the Vacaville Reporter. After the death of Adsit in 1932 he took as his partner John Rico, who is continuing in the business. In 1942 Mr. Andrews retired from the Reporter business, selling his interest to John Rico.

E.C. Andrews had many lodge and club affiliations. He held offices in several and was one of the directors of the First National Bank of Vacaville in the years before it was taken over by the Bank of America.

He is survived by one brother, Guy Andrews, of Oakland.

Services will be held in Vacaville on Saturday, with cremation to follow. Funeral arrangements have not yet been completed.

The Reporter
Nov. 29, 1946

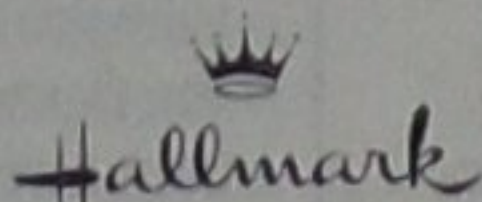


David Bowman
High School Graduation



Bowman's Stationers

David Bowman graduated from Vaca High in 1970 and Graduated from Cal State University, Sacramento in 1975. While in school David worked summers at the Nut Tree and American Home Foods. He is now Vice President and Store Manager of Bowman's Stationers Inc. David's growing family of four children has kept him active in youth sports and school activities.



322 Parker St. • Downtown Vacaville • 447-8430



McCune GARDEN CHAPEL

MORTUARY • CREMATION • MONUMENTS
PRE-ARRANGEMENT PLANNING
FD-0388

212 Main Street • Vacaville
448-6546 • Fax: 448-6559
www.mccunechapel.com

On the first of July in 1938 Del W. McCune purchased the Stewart Funeral Home which was the only funeral home in Vacaville with a population of about 1500 at that time. Mr. McCune and his family occupied and operated the mortuary from a house on Main Street where service and respect was always their number one goal in business. This goal continues today with Del's daughter, Barbara McCune, and the McCune Garden Chapel staff.

TODAY MCCUNE'S CELEBRATES THEIR 61ST ANNIVERSARY!

1940-1949

THE PAST CENTURY

'Gone With the Wind' plays here

The greatest moving picture ever made — "Gone With the Wind" is scheduled to play at the Vacaville Theatre for one day only, Tuesday, May 21st. There will be two showings of the picture, one at 1:45 and one at 7:45.

The Vacaville Theatre scored a scoop by scheduling this big picture far ahead of other small town theatres in this section of the state, and advance sale of tickets indicates two capacity audiences for the day.

The picture stars Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh, and takes four hours to show. It is filmed in technicolor and will be presented here exactly as shown at the famed Atlanta, Georgia, premiere several months ago.

Robert Brooks, local theatre manager, states that seats are going fast, and anyone anticipating attending this showing of the picture should make reservations at once.

The Reporter
May 17, 1940



SEATS NOW ON SALE
ONE DAY ONLY
TUESDAY, MAY 21
FOR TWO PERFORMANCES
Mat. 1:45 p. m. Evening 8 p. m.

GONE WITH THE WIND

Matinee 1:45 P. M. — 75c
Evening 8:00 P. M. — \$1.10
tax inc.

All Seats Reserved

Exactly As Shown At the Famed
Atlanta Premiere

VACAVILLE
THEATRE

MAIL ORDERS ACCEPTED

DAVID O. SELZNICK'S
production of
MARGARET MITCHELL'S
Story of the Old South
GONE WITH THE WIND
IN TECHNICOLOR

starring
CLARK GABLE as Rhett Butler
LILLIE HOWARD • OLIVIA DeHAVILLAND
and presenting
VIVIEN LEIGH as Scarlett O'Hara

A SELZNICK INTERNATIONAL PICTURE
Directed by VICTOR FLEMING
Screen Play by SIDNEY HOWARD • Music by Max Baer
A METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER RELEASE

While this engagement is limited, this production will not be shown anywhere except at advanced prices — at least until 1941. You will see it in its entirety, exactly as shown at its famed Atlanta World Premiere.

This ad from
The Reporter
of May 17,
1940, pro-
motes the
showing of
"Gone With the
Wind," at the
Vacaville
Theatre. And
"exactly as
shown at the
famed Atlanta
premiere."

Vacaville's Davis aptly handles reins in harness racing

The Reinsqueen of Harness Racing, Miss Hellen Davis of Vacaville, continues to blaze across the most famous tracks in the nation. Two months ago, at Golden Gate Turf, she stood out as the top reins-woman of the racing season. Last week she raced Lucille Star to a new track record at the Sonoma County Fair at Santa Rosa.

At present Miss Davis is in Stockton for the racing at the coming San Joaquin County Fair. The following item appeared in the Stockton Record, dated Aug. 5, 1949:

Hellen Davis of Vacaville, California, after more than a quarter of a century of driving trotters and pacers on the California fair circuit, ranks today as the best woman driver not only in the West, but in the entire United States.

A California born and bred, Miss Davis practically stepped from the cradle to the sulky. Her father and grandfather before her owned and raced top harness horses, the latter outdistancing the Indians when he crossed the plains in a covered wagon in 1853.

Maybe the old gentleman provided the original inspiration for Hellen — anyway the boys along the back-stretch will tell you "That Davis woman tops 'em all."

Women's stable

She operates the only all-woman stable in the country. She breaks, trains, schools, drives her own — and also cools 'em out, rubs 'em down, and even shoes 'em herself. She has women helpers, and a trick dog called "Malymoot," who works around the stable, picking up loose bailing wire, stray rubbish, other odds and ends not wanted, and deposits them in the nearest refuse can. He also takes his turn leading horses on the walking ring.

Unlike other sports, she's on

her own when the starter says "Go." She has to compete against men, since there are no all-woman races and the men don't gallantly pull out to let her through on the rail. John Harvey, the great historian of the harness sport, ranked her among the foremost drivers of all time.

Pacific student

She was born in 1898 on an apricot ranch. After high school and a year at College of the Pacific, she was off to the races. At first it was just for the fun of it, later for business.

Best horse she ever had — Palomin. She raised him, broke him, trained him and drove him to his California 3-year-old record of 2:01 3/4. He was a trotter. Her first top horse was Palomin's sire, Palo Cres, 2:05 1/2. First year out with him, 1924, she won nine out of nine.

These two trace directly back to the immortal Electioneer, owned by Leland Stanford, and therefore, like Hellen, were California-bred. She believes in home-bred stock. She has done most of her racing in her native state, and is perhaps the best known driver on the Western Fair Circuit.

At Saratoga

However, she took Palomin East and won with him at Saratoga.

This summer Hellen Davis has the top flight pacing mare, Lucille Star, in her string. The mare, Lucille Star, in her string. The mare is a stake winner of last season, and has already accounted for her share this summer. She will be seen in action in Stockton, starting August 20 with the opening of the San Joaquin County Fair.

The Reporter
Aug. 12, 1949

Ex-Vacan, Wah Yee, in film shown here

Wah Yee, brilliant Chinese, and former resident of this community, takes a minor role in the motion picture, "30 Seconds Over Tokyo," now playing at the Vacaville Theatre. Many of the people of Vacaville will remember Wah Yee. He graduated from the Vacaville high school with the class of 1919 and for many years was employed at Schaefer's Big Country Store here. He won renown by his art work, and the drawing of the two bears holding the basket of fruit which appears in the mast-head of the Reporter is only one of his many

drawings. During his high school days his illustrations adorned the school book, the Ulatis.

Wah left the employ of Schaefer's many years ago to take up a position as artist and sign painter for the Emporium in San Francisco, and remained there until recently when he went to Hollywood to take part in motion pictures. It is understood he had taken part in several pictures, as well as writing scenarios which have been popular in Hollywood.

The Reporter
June 29, 1945

Hope sings with Vacan

Miss Jacqueline Wolff, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kadja Wolff of Vacaville, had the honor of singing on the program presented by Bob Hope and his company in front of Shop 11 at Mare Island on Tuesday noon. Miss Wolff, a talented singer, is employed at Mare Island.

Miss Wolff also had the honor of enjoying a short dance with the

famed comedian, and as the Vallejo Times-Herald said the "wolf of Hollywood and Vine danced with another Wolff."

In the evening the Bob Hope program was broadcast from coast-to-coast from Rodman Club at the navy yard.

The Reporter
Dec. 10, 1943

Vacaville enjoys white Christmas

Mother nature followed closely on the heels of Santa Claus to give Vacaville a deep blanket of snow for the first white Christmas for many of the local residents here.

The welcomed snowflakes began falling early on the afternoon of Christmas day, at the time that many of the townspeople were enjoying breakfast (or bromos). The white fluffy flakes continued falling for several hours, to settle to a depth of a half-inch within the city, to several inches in the high mountains.

The snow storm gave many children the opportunity to see their first snow and of building their first snowmen. To the oldsters

who moved from snow country, it gave somewhat of a nostalgic feeling.

At the height of the snow storm many ventured out to the country just in case the snow would melt too soon. All reported their choice was wise, as the rain which followed that evening and next morning, washed the snow away with it. The only evidence of snow on Sunday was in the higher hills and mountains.

The snow fell so thick and fast during the height of the storm that motorists complained of near impassable roads in some of the rural areas. Others were seen pushing the snow from their windshields as their wipers failed.

The heaviest fall was reported in the Eng-

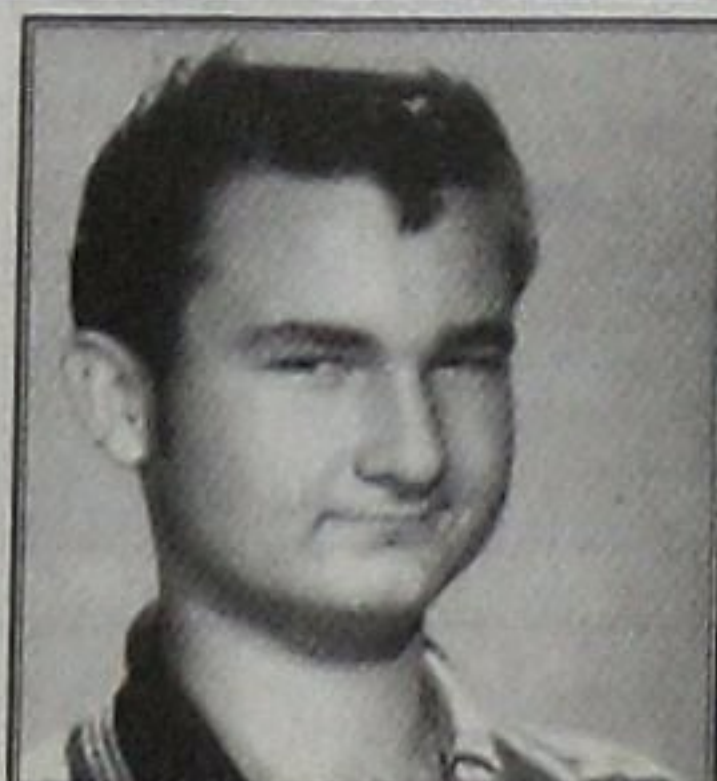
lish Hills and in the areas north and west of Vacaville. Glee-filled residents also turned out doors in the Fairfield area to welcome the lighter snowfall. In the area east of Vacaville, it seemed as if the stubble fields were giving warmth to the atmosphere to give that area a lighter fall.

The Christmas tree on Main Street also spread out its branches to catch each falling flake as it tried to show a Christmas effect. Everywhere in the city, homes were covered white for a pleasing picture no one is likely to forget

The Reporter
Dec. 31, 1948

Our music has been
filling your Vacaville
homes for decades.

Our history 1940 - 1949: Our Manager Glenn Adkins was born July 19, 1942 in the Vacaville Clinic on Elizabeth Street. He is the brother of our owner Bill Carroll. He has been with us since 1970.



Glenn Adkins
Manager

Vacaville Music
359 Merchant St., Vacaville
707-448-3651

See us for all of your musical needs.
Our prices are GREAT.
Our CD's are the BEST prices around.
We also rent and sell VHS, laser, DVD's and games.

Pedaling back the years

Introduced just after the First World War this "classic" design featured automobile and motorcycle elements to appeal to kids who, presumably, would rather have a motor. This bike evolved into the most glamorous, fabulous, ostentatious, heavy designs ever. It is unbelievable today that 14-year-old kids could do the tricks that we did on these 65 pound machines! They were built into the middle 50s, by which time they had taken on design elements of jet aircraft and even rockets.



The Kids' Bike



Ray's Cycle

400 Main St., Downtown Vacaville, 448-1911
1121 Texas St., Downtown Fairfield, 428-1911



1940-1944

M I L L E N N I U M N O T E B O O K

BIRTHS

Jack Nicklaus, golfer, 1/21/40
 Martin Luther King Jr., pastor, 1/15/29
 Willie Mays, baseball player, 6/26/31
 John Lennon, singer/songwriter, 10/9/40
 Joan Baez, folk singer/social activist, 1/9/41
 Bob Dylan, songwriter/singer, 5/24/41
 Otis Redding, soul singer, 9/9/41
 Jesse Jackson, civil rights leader, 10/9/41
 Muhammad Ali (Cassius Clay), boxing champion, 1/18/42
 Barbara Streisand, singer/actress, 4/24/42
 Tammy Wynette, country singer, 5/5/42
 Paul McCartney, singer/songwriter, 6/18/43
 Harrison Ford, actor, 8/22/43
 Mick Jagger, rock singer, 7/26/43
 Robert DeNiro, actor, 8/17/43
 Lech Walesa, Polish political leader, 9/28/43
 Sam Shepherd, actor/playwright, 11/5/43
 John Denver, singer/songwriter, 12/31/43
 George Lucas, filmmaker, 5/14/44
 Diana Ross, singer, 3/26/44

SPORTS

The boys of summer



Joe DiMaggio

In that last glorious summer before the nation goes to war, baseball fans are transfixed by the hitting prowess of Joe DiMaggio of the New York Yankees and Ted Williams of the Boston Red Sox.

DiMaggio is working on a hitting streak that comes to an end July 17 — at 56 games — when the Yankee Clipper fails to hit safely in a contest against the Cleveland Indians. The day before, DiMaggio hit two singles and a double, giving him a total of 91 hits in 223 times at bat during his streak.

Williams ends his season Sept. 28 with a batting average of .4057. Going into a final-day doubleheader at .3995, the Splendid Splinter hammers out six hits in eight at-bats, including a home run.

A league of their own



With many of the male baseball players off fighting the war, female ballplayers step up to the plate in the All-American Girls Baseball League, or AAGBL.

The four-team league begins play in Racine and Kenosha, Wis., South Bend, Ind., and Rockford, Ill. Players are recruited from amateur softball leagues across the nation for the four-month regular season, viewed as a patriotic diversion for wartime workers.

AAGBL players make about \$35 to \$65 more per week than their counterparts in the workplace and are required to attend charm school. The league will last until 1954.

RADIO

'This is London ...'

With that sign-on, 32-year-old Edward R. Murrow is on his way to becoming the most influential radio — and later TV — news commentator of his time. With a somber, authoritative voice, Murrow broadcasts for CBS from England from 1938 to the end of World War II seven years later, relating to American listeners the Nazi bombings of London and the subsequent Battle of Britain. For reporting the war in depth, Murrow assembles a gifted team of broadcast journalists that includes 28-year-old Eric Sevareid who, like Murrow, will be a household name in years to come.



BY THE NUMBERS

Facts and figures from 1941:
 ■ **32.6 million:** Cars on U.S. roads.
 ■ **19 percent:** Average fat content of U.S. frankfurters.



■ **\$1.75:** Price of a three-course dinner at the tiny new Le Pavillon in New York.
 ■ **1 million:** Cans of Gerber's baby food sold every week.

1940

■ **Jan. 4:** In Dublin, Irish Premier Eamon de Valera is granted full powers to counter terrorism by the Irish Republican Army.

■ **May 13:** In his "blood, toil, tears and sweat" address to the Commons, Prime Minister Winston Churchill makes clear Britain's objective in the war against Germany: "Victory; victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory however long and hard the road may be; for without victory, there is no survival."



■ **May 26:** The Allies, facing imminent annihilation, undertake a desperate evacuation dubbed Operation Dynamo. Britain's Royal Navy — aided by an armada of small boats — over 10 days plucks 340,000 Allied soldiers off the beaches of France and Belgium. Although the Allies suffer more than 100,000 dead, wounded or captured, and must leave behind much costly equipment, complete disaster is averted. The evacuation is considered one of Britain's greatest military achievements — "a miracle of deliverance," in the words of Winston Churchill.



A Frenchman weeps as Germans march into Paris on June 14.

■ **June 14:** The Nazis occupy a Paris that has been virtually abandoned militarily. The next day, the Nazi flag is raised over Versailles, and Hitler is there for the occasion, dancing a jig at the apogee of the Third Reich's power.

■ **July 10:** The death of the Third Republic is marked officially, as the French government is removed to Vichy.

■ **Sept. 15:** A BBC report has 185 German planes downed in a single day. For two months prior, the skies over London, Manchester, Liverpool and other strategic cities presented a deadly aerial circus, with British fighters taking on — and knocking out — Germany's Stuka bombers.

■ **Oct. 29:** America's military draft is reinstituted in peacetime. Men in each of the nation's Selective Service areas whose draft numbers correspond with those drawn from a gigantic bowl will be called for a year of Army service.

1941

■ **Jan. 20:** With his inauguration in Washington, Franklin Delano Roosevelt becomes the first and only three-term U.S. president.

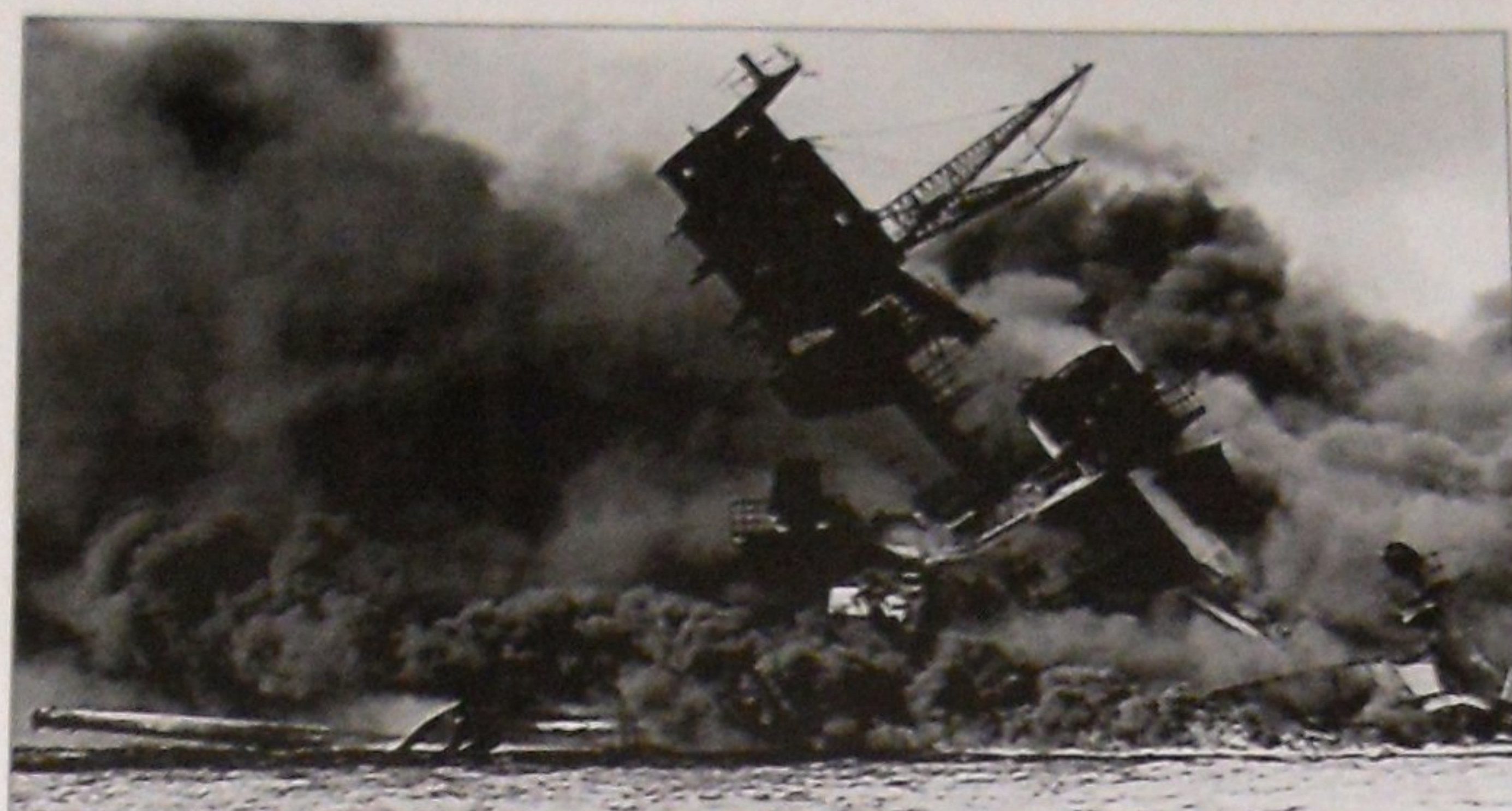
■ **Feb. 9:** The French ocean liner Normandie, widely considered the most beautiful in the world, goes up in flames in New York Harbor. The fire is blamed on sparks from a welder's torch.

■ **March 28:** Clinically depressed and unable to face the prospect of another nervous breakdown and institutionalization, British writer Virginia Woolf drowns herself near her home in Sussex, England.

■ **April 28:** The Supreme Court rules unanimously that black passengers are entitled to all first-class services on trains. U.S. Rep. Arthur W. Mitchell initiated the case when he was ordered to move to a second-class car as his train approached Arkansas.

■ **May 12:** German planes bomb London, destroying the roof of Westminster Hall in one of the war's worst airstrikes.

■ **May 27:** After a high-seas chase of 1,750 miles, a Royal Navy



Smoke billows from the USS Arizona in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, after the attack that seared U.S. consciousness.

'A day which will live in infamy'

The words are grim, the reaction inevitable.

"Yesterday, Dec. 7, 1941 — a day which will live in infamy — the United States was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan," President Franklin D. Roosevelt tells Congress.

Executed without a declaration of hostilities, the devastating raid on the Pearl Harbor naval base in Hawaii galvanizes Americans, prompting even longtime isolationists to call for retaliation.

Congress declares war on Japan on Dec. 11. "No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous wrath will win through to absolute victory," Roosevelt says.

The surprise attack on the U.S.

Pacific Fleet is ruinously effective: 2,330 servicemen and 100 civilians are killed; four battleships are sunk, four more disabled; 11 other ships are sunk or critically damaged; 188 planes are destroyed on the ground. The fleet's three aircraft carriers are at sea, however, and escape harm.

Coinciding with the Pearl Harbor attack, the Japanese strike British positions in Malaya and Hong Kong and U.S. installations in the Philippines, Guam, Midway and Wake Island. By Dec. 8, Japan rules the Pacific.

Adm. Isoroku Yamamoto and Premier Hideki Tojo believe that the war is all but over. Adolf Hitler agrees. "Now it is impossible for us to lose the war," he tells an adviser. "We now have an ally who has not been vanquished in 3,000 years."

Rashly, Hitler acts on his convictions. On Dec. 11, he declares war on the United States. His action seals his fate and ensures the defeat of the Axis powers.

The dominoes begin to fall faster. Italy follows Hitler's lead and declares war; the United States reciprocates. Then Britain formally declares war against Japan, and with the United States in the battle, the outlook for the Allied powers brightens dramatically.

The U.S. partnership "makes amends for all, and with time and patience will give certain victory," says British Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

Victory may be certain, but it is far from immediate. For the rest of the winter, Japan will sweep through the Pacific, vanquishing all opposition.

1942

■ **Jan. 16:** The film world and moviegoers are stunned by the sudden death in an airplane crash of 33-year-old Carole Lombard, one of the screen's greatest stars and wife of film idol Clark Gable.

■ **Feb. 20:** President Franklin D. Roosevelt authorizes internment of Japanese Americans on the West Coast.

■ **Oct. 15-16:** Recorded history's most devastating hurricane kills 40,000 people in and around Bengal, India.

■ **Oct. 16:** Aaron Copland's ballet "Rodeo" has its premiere at New York's Metropolitan Opera.

■ **Nov. 28:** Boston's Coconut Grove nightclub is filled beyond capacity with revelers as a fire breaks out in the kitchen and spreads into the ballroom. People trying to escape are trapped in the inferno because a mob of humanity is pressed against the doors. The death toll is put at 491. History's worst nightclub fire influences legislation that requires doors in public buildings to open outwardly, rather than inwardly, as they did at the Grove.

1943

■ **Feb. 16:** Sugar Ray Robinson's 40-bout winning streak is halted by Jake LaMotta, who takes a 10-round decision at Olympia Stadium in Detroit. Robinson moved out of the welterweight class to face middleweight LaMotta. Robinson will not lose another fight for eight years.

■ **April 18:** Japanese Adm. Isoroku Yamamoto, planner of the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, is en route by air to inspect troops on the Solomon Islands when Ameri-



Orson Welles in 'Citizen Kane.'

Dud buds into masterpiece

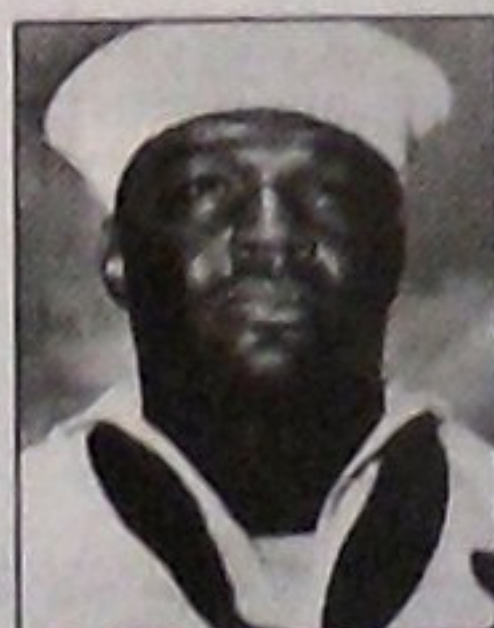
Is it the greatest movie ever made? Many critics say it is; even those who disagree acknowledge that "Citizen Kane" electrified the movie industry and changed filmmaking forever.

Radio and stage wunderkind Orson Welles is 25 and a film novice when Hollywood beckons, in the form of an RKO contract with unprecedented artistic freedom. The iconoclastic Welles promptly sets about breaking the cinema world's unwritten rules.

When "Citizen Kane" premieres, viewers and reviewers are dazzled by its innovations: fractured narrative structure, spectacular time leaps, dramatic camera angles, and shots with simultaneous action in the foreground, background and middle ground.

Hero-antihero Charles Foster Kane, played by Welles, is modeled on media magnate William Randolph Hearst. The plot is set in motion by reporters' attempts to learn the meaning of Kane's dying word, "Rosebud." The reporters give up, but moviegoers witness a scene that reveals Rosebud to be Kane's childhood sled.

At least initially, "Citizen Kane" loses money, but it will be almost universally acknowledged as a cinematic masterpiece.



■ **Dec. 7:** Dorie Miller, a black Navy mess attendant on the USS West Virginia with no weapons training, is below decks when Japanese dive bombers make their first pass over Battleship Row in Pearl Harbor. He runs topside and finds a machine-gunner wounded at his gun. He takes over the gun and shoots down four of the attacking warplanes.

can fighter planes shoot down his aircraft. Allied intelligence intercepts his itinerary and the U.S. planes are waiting in ambush.

■ **April 18:** On the feast of Passover, a desperate remnant of Polish Jewry — about 1,500 starving men and women of the Warsaw Ghetto organized into commando units — take on the might of the German Wehrmacht armed only with pistols, grenades, Molotov cocktails, two or three light machine guns, and their wits. The rebels hold out for nearly a month, killing several hundred Germans in the futile struggle.

■ **June 14:** A West Virginia law requiring schoolchildren to salute the flag is ruled invalid by the U.S. Supreme Court.

■ **June 14:** Federal troops quell a race riot in Detroit after two days of disturbances that involves thousands and take 34 lives.

■ **June 22:** His grasp rapidly slipping, Italian leader Benito Mussolini resigns, ending his 21-year dictatorship. Mussolini's successor, Marshal Pietro Badoglio, begins making plans to take Italy out of the war.

■ **Sept. 3:** After capturing Sicily, the Allies invade Italy. Five days later, Marshal Badoglio signs papers transforming Italy from an ally of Germany into an enemy.

1944



Glenn Miller, the man whose music provides a beat for the Allied march across Europe, disappears in a routine flight over the English Channel. Miller, an orchestra leader in civilian life, joined the U.S. Army Air Force in October 1942.

■ **Jan. 6:** The long reign of Bing Crosby as king of the crooners ends. He is dethroned by a younger man known as "The Voice." Frank Sinatra becomes the new King of Croon in the annual poll conducted by Down Beat magazine, "the bible" of swing musicians published in Chicago.

■ **April 3:** The U.S. Supreme Court rules that "Negroes" cannot be barred from voting in the Texas Democratic primaries. Although the decision applies only to Texas, members of Congress from Southern states express fear that it could be extended to other states.

■ **May 3:** The General Conference of the Methodist Church in Kansas City rejects a resolution to admit women to full rights of ministers.

■ **June 6:** In the pre-dawn hours, an assault code-named Operation Overlord — to be known forever as D-Day — is launched from the sea. It is carried out by a force of 176,000 men, an armada of 2,000 ships and 4,000 landing craft, and 11,000 aircraft. The armada lands U.S., British and Canadian troops on Normandy beaches code-named Omaha, Utah, Gold, Juno and Sword. Despite the bombardment, the Americans encounter resistance at Omaha Beach and incur about 3,000 casualties in the first day of fighting. But by day's end, 155,000 men are ashore in France to begin retaking the continent from Germany's Third Reich.



Americans display a captured Nazi flag in Normandy on June 8.

■ **July 6:** Fire destroys the main tent of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus during a performance in Hartford, Conn., causing 163 deaths and 200 injuries. The next day, five circus officials are arrested on charges of manslaughter. Authorities say that management was negligent in providing fire protection and that the tent was waterproofed with a paraffin-gasoline mixture.

■ **Oct. 9:** Proposals for a world security organization are considered by the United States, Britain, the Soviet Union and China. The United Nations, as it is to be called, will aim "to take such action by air, naval or land forces to maintain or restore international peace and security."

■ **Nov. 7:** President Roosevelt wins by a landslide an unprecedented fourth term in office, defeating Republican challenger Gov. Thomas E. Dewey.

The Past Century - Now it's available online.

1945-1949

M I L L E N N I U M N O T E B O O K

1947

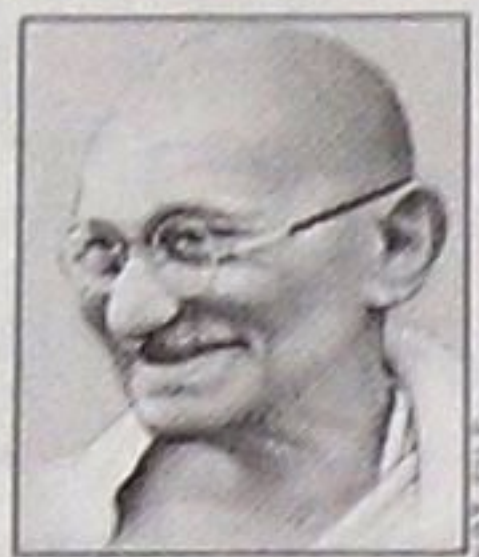
■ **April 16:** The French freighter Grandcamp, loaded with 2,300 tons of ammonium nitrate fertilizer, explodes in Texas City, Texas. The fire spreads to another freighter hauling ammonium nitrate, sparking a second explosion. The disaster kills 576 and injures 4,000.

■ **June 23:** The controversial Taft-Hartley Act is passed by Congress over President Truman's veto. The new law reduces or eliminates many labor union advantages provided for in the National Labor Relations Act of 1935.

■ **July 8:** A rancher brings scraps of tinfoil, paper, tape and sticks to the air base at Roswell, N.M., where a young officer sets off a controversy that has yet to die down. At his superior's instructions, Lt. Walter Haut issues a news release announcing that the base has collected remnants of a flying saucer. The scraps are rushed to Fort Worth, Texas, where Brig. Gen. Roger M. Ramey calls a news conference at which the scraps are identified as the debris of a weather balloon.

■ **Aug. 7:** Norwegian anthropologist Thor Heyerdahl, sailing aboard a 45-foot balsawood raft called Kon-Tiki, makes landfall in the Pacific Ocean archipelago Tuamotu after a westward sea voyage of about 4,300 miles from Peru. The aim of the voyage is to show that the Pacific islands could have been settled by people from South America.

■ **Aug. 14-15:** At the stroke of midnight, the British Raj is replaced by the independent states of India and Pakistan. Propelled by a campaign led by Mohandas K. Gandhi (right), two nations containing 400 million people win their freedom. Gandhi's dream of one sprawling state is compromised by Mohammed Ali Jinnah, who negotiates a Muslim homeland — Pakistan — separate from Hindu-dominated India. But the dawn of freedom is darkened by an unprecedented wave of violence that accompanies partition. Hindus and Sikhs are driven from Muslim Pakistan, and Hindus and Sikhs force out Muslims from predominantly Hindu India. Among the 10 million people uprooted, about a million people will lose their lives.



AP FILE

■ **Oct. 14:** Air Force Capt. Charles "Chuck" Yeager breaks the sound barrier aboard the Bell X-1 rocket plane, which he names "Glamorous Glennis" for his wife. Yeager attains an altitude of 43,000 feet and a speed of more than 700 mph. The sound barrier is 741 mph at sea level.

■ **Oct. 23:** Actor Ronald Reagan, president of the Screen Actors Guild, testifies before the House Committee on Un-American Activities that his guild is not controlled by leftists. A month later, the film industry blacklists 10 directors, producers and actors, who will become known as the Hollywood Ten.

■ **Nov. 2:** Howard Hughes' flying boat, "Spruce Goose," takes flight ever so briefly at Los Angeles-Long Beach Harbor.

■ **Nov. 20:** Princess Elizabeth, daughter of Britain's King George VI, is wed to her cousin Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, in London's Westminster Abbey.

1948

■ **Jan. 12:** The U.S. Supreme Court rules that the University of Oklahoma may not discriminate on the basis of race.

■ **Jan. 30:** Mohandas K. Gandhi is gunned down as the 78-year-old champion of nonviolence walks through a New Delhi garden to deliver a daily prayer to his followers. The assassin, who is arrested immediately, is identified as Nathuran Vinayak Godse, a Hindu opposed to Gandhi's message of religious tolerance.

■ **Feb. 2:** President Truman



FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM FILE/US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Dawn of Atomic Age brings an end to war

With a blinding flash and a roiling black cloud of dust and debris that resembles an immense mushroom, a new weapon called "the atomic bomb" unleashes its fury on Hiroshima, Japan, the morning of Aug. 6, 1945. President Harry S. Truman warns the Japanese that "if they do not accept our terms, they may expect a rain of ruin from the sky the likes of which has never been seen on this Earth." Japan does not respond. So, three days after the first bomb, an atomic bomb falls on Nagasaki. The two bombs virtually destroy the two cities, kill an estimated 120,000 people outright and force Japan to capitulate.

The Japanese surrender Aug. 14, following the surrender of Germany on May 8, marks the end of a six-year global conflict that leaves

an estimated 55 million people dead. The United States emerges as the world's only atomic power, soon to be matched by the Soviet Union.

The new weapon, based on releasing the energy contained in the atom, was developed in great secrecy by scientists and technicians working mostly in the remote desert of New Mexico under the direction of Army Maj. Gen. Leslie L. Groves.

In what some historians will later consider the most important event of the 20th century, the world's first atomic device was detonated at 5:29 a.m. on July 16, 1945, at the Trinity test site in southern New Mexico. The nuclear genie was out of the bottle. Physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer murmurs the words of a Hindu text: "I am become death, the shatterer of worlds."

calls for the end of "Jim Crow" segregation laws and for establishment of a federal commission on civil rights.

■ **March 8:** The U.S. Supreme Court rules that public schools may not set aside time during the school day specifically for prayer.

■ **May 14:** A British mandate to govern Palestine, which took effect in 1919, expires. With the British withdrawal, the Jews of Palestine proclaim independence for the new state of Israel and install Polish-born David Ben-Gurion as prime minister. But there is no time for celebration. Neighboring Arab countries invade Israel on May 15. The fighting will continue into 1949, but by the end of 1948 the fledgling republic establishes firm military control over a substantial portion of Palestine. Surrounded by enemies and fraught with a constant threat of invasion and annihilation, there is, for the first time in more than 2,000 years, an independent Jewish state and homeland.

■ **May 28:** Pro-apartheid forces win control of the government of South Africa, with plans to expand traditional segregation and class structure into complete separation of the races and with severe deprivation of rights to nonwhites.

■ **June 24:** President Truman signs the Selective Service Act, or the draft, in response to crises in Europe and Asia.

■ **June 28:** British and American planes begin flights that will eventually, over a 15-month period, carry 2,326,406 tons of food and fuel, including coal, over communist terrain into Berlin, night and day, in all weather. Called Op-



NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

Breaking the color barrier

The major-league debut on April 15, 1947, of a Georgia-born infielder named Jack Roosevelt "Jackie" Robinson makes baseball history. Robinson, a gifted hitter and base runner for the Brooklyn Dodgers, is the first black to play for a major-league team. As Dodgers general manager Branch Rickey predicted, Robinson faces animosity in the big leagues. Despite the distractions, Robinson performs spectacularly. He bats .297 for the season, is named National League rookie of the year and leads the Dodgers to the World Series.

eration Vittles, the aerial supply of essential commodities to a beleaguered Berlin is an unambiguous victory over the Soviet Union in the early days of the Cold War. The cost of the airlift will be estimated at \$224 million. But there is a human cost as well: 70 Allied airmen — 31 Americans and 39 Britons — give their lives in the rescue effort.

■ **June 29:** The Summer Olympics, the first since the 1936 Games in Berlin, open in London.

■ **June 30:** President Truman orders an end to all segregation in the U.S. armed forces.

■ **July 14:** Yugoslavia's communist leader, Josip Broz Tito, breaks with Moscow, thwarting the attempt by Soviet dictator Josef Stalin to gain complete hegemony over Eastern Europe.

■ **Aug. 3:** Whittaker Chambers, a confessed former communist spy, testifies before the House Un-American Activities Committee that Alger Hiss, president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, also has been a Soviet agent. Hiss denies the charges under oath and is indicted on perjury charges on Dec. 15, with a trial scheduled for 1949. The major beneficiary of the notorious case will be Richard Milhous Nixon, a young Republican congressman from California who enters the national spotlight for the first time with a prominent role in the committee hearings.

■ **Aug. 28:** With the mysterious arrival of ballot box No. 13 in Jim Wells County in Texas, Lyndon B. Johnson picks up 202 additional votes to win the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate over Coke Stevenson, by a count of 494,191 to 494,104.

■ **Nov. 2:** The polls and the pundits predict a Republican landslide, but President Truman confounds the experts. He and his running mate, Sen. Alben Barkley of Kentucky, roll up an electoral vote of 304, compared with Republican nominee Thomas E. Dewey's 189. The Democrats also regain control of the Senate and the House.

■ **Dec. 10:** The U.N. General Assembly approves the Human Rights Declaration, outlining basic human rights.

1949

■ **Jan. 10:** RCA introduces the 45-rpm record, but consumers are unhappy because the new disc is not compatible with their old phonographs.

■ **Feb. 7:** The New York Yankees agree to pay Joe DiMaggio \$90,000 for one year, the highest contract in baseball.

■ **March 8:** France recognizes the independence of Vietnam, but retains the right to maintain military bases in the Southeast Asian country.

■ **May 12:** The Russians lift their blockade of West Berlin, which had prompted the West to mount an aerial supply mission to the besieged city. German crowds hail the arrival of food and fuel, but the airlift continues until Sept. 30 to ensure that Berlin has ample supplies. On May 23, the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) is established in the new capital city of Bonn. On Oct. 12, the Communist Party establishes a new government, the German Democratic Republic (East Germany).

■ **September-October:** A 31-year-old evangelist named Billy Graham gains national prominence with a tent crusade in Los Angeles that leads to the conversion of an Olympic track star, a noted gambler and a notorious gangster.

■ **Oct. 6:** Iva Toguri D'Aquino, one of at least a dozen female announcers known as "Tokyo Rose" by English-speaking listeners in the Pacific during the war, is sentenced to six years in prison. The Los Angeles-born UCLA grad is found innocent of eight counts of treason but guilty on one count of undermining U.S. morale. She says the Japanese police pressured her to do the announcing after she was caught in Tokyo during the war.

■ **Oct. 26:** President Truman signs into law an increase in the minimum wage from 40 cents to 75 cents an hour. Typical annual income, after taxes: steelworker, \$3,000; high school teacher, \$4,700; car salesman, \$8,000; dentist, \$10,000. Some typical prices: a gallon of gas, 25 cents; a man's gabardine suit, \$50; a pack of cigarettes, 21 cents; a quart of milk, 21 cents; and a Coca-Cola, 5 cents.

BIRTHS

Stephen Stills, musician, 1/3/45.
Hank Perlman, violinist, 8/31/45.
Joni Mitchell, singer, 9/10/45.
Dolly Parton, singer/songwriter, 1/19/46.
Gordie Bergin, actress, 5/9/46.
Oscar (Charles) LaPiere (Sarandon), singer/actress, 5/20/46.
Susan Sarandon, actress, 10/4/46.
David Bowie, singer, 1/8/47.
David Letterman, talk-show host, 4/12/47.
Salman Rushdie, writer, 6/19/47.
Arnold Schwarzenegger, actor, 7/30/47.
Stephen King, writer, 9/21/47.
Steven Spielberg, film director, 12/18/47.
Michael Baryshnikov, dancer, 1/21/48.
Bryant Gumbel, broadcast journalist, 9/29/48.
Charles, Prince of Wales, 11/14/48.
Meryl Streep, actress, 6/22/49.
Bruce Springsteen, rock singer, 9/23/49.



PASSAGES

Anne Frank

Frank, a 14-year-old Dutch Jewish girl who kept a diary while in hiding with her family in Amsterdam, dies sometime during March 1945 at the Nazi concentration camp at Bergen-Belsen.

Gen. George S. Patton

Patton, 60, known as "Old Blood and Guts," dies Dec. 21, 1945, in Heidelberg, Germany, after a Dec. 9 car accident.

WORLD EVENTS

Called to account

From October 1945 to October 1946, 24 former Nazi leaders are on trial as war criminals, charged with overseeing mass murder on an unprecedented scale. The International Military Tribunal in the southern German city of Nuremberg is conducted by the victorious Allies of World War II: the United States, Britain, the Soviet Union and France. By the time punishments are meted out, one of the accused has killed himself and another has been judged incompetent. Of the remainder, three are acquitted; 12 sentenced to hang; three sentenced to life imprisonment; and four sentenced to prison terms ranging from 10 to 20 years.

FAMILY

A guru of parenting

"Trust yourself. You know more than you think you do." With those opening words of "The Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care," pediatrician Benjamin Spock (right) boosts the confidence of parents in postwar America. Published in 1946, the book is instantly accepted as a healthful alternative of intuition and flexibility to the rigid ways of parenting preached before the war. In the next 44 years, the book will sell 40 million copies in 38 languages.



BUSINESS

Rise of golden arches

"Fast food" is not yet part of the vernacular, but brothers Maurice and Richard McDonald lay the groundwork for the new industry in 1948 when they open a hamburger stand with a walk-up window in San Bernardino, Calif. In 1955, with the help of milkshake machine salesman Ray Kroc, the brothers begin to franchise the name McDonald to other entrepreneurs. McDonald's goes on to open more than 24,500 restaurants in 115 countries.

FILM

Capra Christmas classic

The first postwar effort of celebrated Hollywood director Frank Capra gets a lukewarm reception from the critics and flops at the box office in 1946. It's a sentimental tale of Christmas-time redemption, starring Jimmy Stewart as George Bailey, a generous, much-loved banker in the small town of Bedford Falls. Cynical postwar moviegoers apparently aren't in the mood for schmaltz. But the film, "It's a Wonderful Life," will become a classic.

Donna Reed and Jimmy Stewart



HO REPLIC PICTURES

1946

■ **Jan. 20:** Franklin D. Roosevelt is sworn in for an unprecedented fourth term as president.

■ **Jan. 26:** When his unit is confronted by a German counter-attack during the 3rd Infantry Division's march across France, Audie Leon Murphy, 21, orders his men to pull back while he stays forward to direct mortar fire. As the advancing Germans reach his position, Murphy climbs onto a burning tank destroyer and uses its .50-caliber machine gun to hold off the enemy for more than an hour until they retreat. The stand at Colmar wins Murphy the Medal of Honor, one of 33 awards and decorations that make him the most decorated U.S. serviceman during World War II.

■ **Jan. 31:** Pvt. Eddie Slovik is shot by a firing squad at Ste-Marie aux Mines in France. He is the first American to be executed for desertion since the Civil War.



SGT. LOUIS A. LOWERY/KMT
The first American flag is raised atop Iwo Jima's Mount Suribachi.

■ **Feb. 19:** U.S. Marines land on Iwo Jima, an island 650 miles from Tokyo, valued for its location midway between Japan and American bomber bases in the Marianas. For 36 days, Iwo Jima is one of the most populated 7.5 miles on earth, with 100,000 men fighting on a plot of land the size of Manhattan. After the largest armada invasion in the Pacific War, the Marines take the island March 16.

■ **April 12:** President Roosevelt is visiting Warm Springs, Ga., a resort for polio patients and his favorite retreat. He is sitting for a portrait when he exclaims, "I have a terrific headache," and passes out. A few hours later, the nation's 32nd president is dead of a cerebral hemorrhage at age 63. His successor, Vice President Harry S. Truman, suddenly is the leader of an emerging superpower. The decisions he will make over the next few months will end the war and shape the postwar era.

■ **April 30:** With Berlin in ruins, Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler, his wife of two days, Eva Braun, and his closest associates are holed up in a bunker beneath the German chancellery. Hitler and Braun shake hands with their companions and retire into private quarters. There, Braun swallows cyanide and Hitler sticks a pistol barrel into his mouth and fires. The night before, Hitler dictated a will disclaiming all responsibility for the war and blaming "international Jewry" for everything.

■ **July 28:** An Army B-25 light bomber flies into the Empire State Building in New York, tearing a hole between the 78th and 79th floors and killing 13 people.

■ **July 30:** Just after midnight, a Japanese submarine launches six torpedoes at the cruiser USS Indianapolis. The ship had just delivered the components of the atomic bomb to the island of Tinian in the Marianas. The Indianapolis breaks apart and sinks in 12 minutes. The ship carries a crew of nearly 1,200. Not until Aug. 2 does a Navy pilot spot an oil slick and come upon the gruesome scene. Most of those who survived the torpedo attack are drowned or devoured by sharks; only 316 of the crew survive.

1946

■ **Jan. 10:** Emissaries of 52 nations convene in London for the first session of the United Nations General Assembly.

■ **Feb. 14:** ENIAC, the Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer, is unveiled by the War Department. The first general-purpose computer is 10 feet tall, weighs 60,000 pounds and has 18,000 vacuum tubes.

■ **Oct. 2:** Scientists at a symposium in Buffalo, N.Y., discuss the possibility that cigarette smoking may be hazardous to people's health.

■ **Oct. 16:** Gordie Howe of the Detroit Red Wings scores the first goal of his record-setting hockey career.

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